Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the U.S. Attorney's Office take action on the Inspector General's report citing possible violations in the award of a sole-source contract to IPS to manage the CNMI's ARRA funds?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Grizzly Attack

As the grizzly thrashed him about, all Sam Gottsegen could think about was what he would miss.

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Somalia Famine

The U.N. will airlift emergency rations to parts of drought-ravaged Somalia.

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Expensive Cups

An Oklahoma man has more than a million reasons to be happy with Chinese rhinoceros horned cups.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

WITH ONLY 16 DOCTORS, 4 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

CHC in an 'unstable state'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center is down to just 16 doctors after losing a significant number of physicians in the last few months.

Esther Muña, public health acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, said yesterday that the hospital is now in an unstable situation, even if the 16 doctors are full-time hires. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the 16 doctors are being assisted by four physician assistants.

"We're having a shortage of doctors now and we immediately need at least four physicians to bring our number to a stable [condition]," she said yesterday.

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'Hospital's doctors don't just guess.' PAGE 3

Muña said the hospital urgently needs two pediatricians and two internal medicine doctors to cope with the demand.

In March this year, the Department of Public Health reported that CHC had 27 physicians comprising both full-time and short-term hires. This number went down to 24 in May. At that time, the hospital's doctor population was still considered stable, according to Muña.

She said they recently lost about four doctors, some of them locums—or short-term hires.

CHC is a 74-bed facility that is Medicare certified and provides both inpatient and outpatient services.

Based on current staffing, CHC has two doctors at Pedi-

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Pai: IG report leak was not from OPA

US Attorney says the 'matter is now pending and under review'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Public Auditor Michael Pai yesterday denied accusations that he leaked the Inspector General investigation on the Fitial administration's $392,406 sole-source contract with former Commerce secretary Michael Ada's firm.

Pai

The Office of the U.S. Attorney for Guam and the CNMI, meanwhile, released a statement to Pacific News Center saying that the IG report on the Commonwealth's management of ARRA funds is currently pending and under review.

"We are unable to comment on the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Inspector General's report as the matter is currently pending and under review by our office," the statement reads.

Forced response

Attorney General Edward Buck-

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FBI probes fraudulent encashment of stimulus checks

10 Chinese workers surprised to learn their checks were encashed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The FBI is investigating the alleged fraudulent encashment of at least 10 federal stimulus checks in 2009 that supposedly belonged to Chinese workers.

Ge Zhao, office manager of Saipan Triple Star Recycling Co., on behalf of their 10 employees, sought the help of the FBI and the Department of Public Safety after Tax and Revenue informed them that the checks have already been released and were subsequently encashed.

Each stimulus check was in the amount of $400.

Zhao told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they first went to the FBI two weeks ago to report the matter and returned on Monday to follow up on their complaint.

Zhao said that an FBI special agent entertained their complaint and encouraged all other Chinese nationals to step forward if they believe their stimulus checks were also fraudulently encashed.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Ge Zhao, office manager of Saipan Triple Star Recycling Co., seated, talks to six of their 10 employees who discovered that their 2009 stimulus checks were released and subsequently fraudulently encashed. The Chinese workers sought help from the FBI and the Department of Public Safety.

'Disgruntled GOP members welcome to join Dems' PAGE 5
Framingham grads may get reduced grant amounts. PAGE 6

Local

Hart: NMC can be an engine of economic growth

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, second from left, said the college's No. 1 priority is to reclaim its full accreditation during a meeting with House and Senate members at the latter's chamber in Capital Hill yesterday. Also in photo are, from left, Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama, regent Frank Rabauliman, and NMC legal counsel Jesus Borja.

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart led a cadre of officials from the institution up to Capitol Hill yesterday in what she hopes to become a quarterly face-off with members of the Legislature.

While the new NMC president acknowledges that yesterday's meeting with lawmakers was "a great first step in a continuing relationship between the college and the Legislature," Hart said her more ambitious goal for the college is to transform it to an "engine of economic growth."

"I would really hope that what we shared with the Legislature is the importance of all of us working together for the betterment of the Commonwealth and I believe we all have that same goal," she said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* during a break in the meeting.

She likened NMC, the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the business sector, as the four legs of a stool.

"As long as we have a clear vision where we're going to go, sometimes right now those four legs on the stool, one leg could be broken or two legs could be broken because maybe we're not on the same team. But if we have that common mission and we will be working on it together then I think we can absolutely as a team do it.

That is why NMC needs to improve its relationship with the fourth leg, the business community, she said.

"That's why I want to come out and work with the business community because they can also be strong advocates for the college. They are the employers of our graduates but they're also the ones helping us whether or not what we are providing [them] is what is fulfilling their needs."

With the help of the Legislature, the Governor's Office, and the business sector, Hart said that NMC "can be that engine of economic growth to help the Commonwealth and the business industry move forward in the years ahead."

No. 1 priority

Hart said she is happy that NMC was able to have a meeting with the Legislature to emphasize to lawmakers that the college getting off probation is their No. 1 priority.

"After we do that, we can move much more aggressively at addressing other needs—the community needs and the employment needs that exists out there across the Commonwealth," she said.

Aside from reclaiming its full accreditation, Hart said that NMC would also like to re-instill in their students and future students that "NMC is a strong college, we're accredited, we're here for them, and we're going to commit to their success."

She admits that the institution has lost some students who enrolled elsewhere because they were not so sure about what was going to happen to NMC's accreditation.

"We plan to get off of probation and we plan to get back on full status to better improve our programs and services to them."

Another area of concerns she wants to tackle is NMC's staffing problems, saying the root is the lack of salary increases. In fact, accreditation liason officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero confirmed that the college hasn't given salary hikes to its employees for more than 10 years now.

"That's why we're losing people," said Hart.

Ready to help

Senate Education Committee chair Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) said there couldn't have been a more opportune time for NMC to have a meeting with the Legislature, especially with the college's budget review coming up.

"It's good for NMC to come up here and submit a report on what's going on. We're very concerned with the accreditation of NMC. Since we're out of show-cause and now on probation, we're actually moving out and away from sanction. This is good news," he said in an interview during a break.

Reyes said that NMC needs to go back to full accreditation because the CNMI is losing a lot of financial aid to students who otherwise would have been eligible to apply for grants. NMC also couldn't submit federal grant requests for programs that could benefit the institution, he added.

Reyes said that lawmakers are ready to help NMC get its full accreditation back.

"It's a long way to try and achieve this but we need to make sure that we don't provide obstacles such as political interference and allowing NMC to work its way out of probation," he said. "If there's any other way we can help them, we stand ready to assist. It's good also for members to hear this so that if there's legislation affecting NMC, instead of pushing those legislations through, that they at least consult NMC so that they know whether or not it will have implications on issues of accreditation."

Hospital's doctors don't just 'guess,' says Muña

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center are not merely guessing the illness of their patients, describing a media report (not in the *Saipan Tribune*) as "unfounded" and "unfair," according to a senior public health official.

Esther Muña, deputy secretary for hospital administration and financial services administrator, stressed yesterday that all CHC physicians are qualified and are passionate about their jobs, rendering extra hours of work because they care for their patients. Despite the threat of payless paydays, Muña said that CHC doctors are opting to stay and serve the community.

The report, arising from a public hearing held Friday last week on Capitol Hill about the hospital's operations and services, had stated that, due to the non-availability of diagnostic tests, doctors were just "guessing" their patients' illness.

Muña said this is untrue.

"The statements made during the public hearing were taken out of context and labeling them is not only upsetting but demoralizing for our doctors," Muna told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

She explained that laboratory tests are considered one of the less expensive tools that aid physicians in diagnosing patients. Other aids include radiological exams on top of reviewing history and old records, performing physical exams, and doing an overall assessment.

Without diagnostic tests, doctors "look for other aids of managing the patient treatment and that likely includes a more costly test or treatment and even extending the stay of the patients. But it's not guessing or to confirm a guess," Muña said.

If the doctors are unqualified and are not doing their jobs, these serious deficiencies will be easily identified and cited by Medicare, which does surveys and visits to the hospital, Muña said. "That's one proof that we have capable and qualified doctors here at the hospital."

CHC, along with Tinian and Rota Health Center, was placed under a state of emergency on Thursday due to the lack of many services and supplies, mainly because the hospital's vendors were not getting paid. One of them is the Diagnostic Laboratory Services, which the hospital owes about $1 million.

According to Muña, DLS has been serving the hospital for more than 10 years through annual contracts amounting to close to $3 million yearly. As a referenced laboratory, specimens are brought to the company for testing. The contract was inked to ensure that all hospital patients would be served even if they are unable to pay.

Without the services provided by DLS, the hospital will be obliged to order tests and supplies to aid in the diagnosis—a process that Muña said is more costly for the cash-strapped hospital. This would also mean that patients who cannot afford to pay for the exams upfront would not get access to those tests.

Muña expressed optimism that the Executive Branch would come up with the $3 million the hospital needs so it could resume many services and buy more supplies for its laboratory.

Man gets 7-year probation for meter tampering

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja has imposed a seven-year probation on a man who tampered with a power meter and did not pay $6,600 worth of electricity.

Naraja on Monday sentenced Francisco M. Sanchez to six months in prison, all suspended, for a count of theft of utility services.

Sanchez was ordered to pay $6,658.38 in restitution to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., a $750 fine, a $700 probation fee, and a $25 court fee.

Sanchez and counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, signed a plea agreement with the government. Assistant attorney general Eileen Wisor appeared for the government.

The judge also required Sanchez to write a letter of apology to CUC and the people of the CNMI and submit the letter to newspaper editors for publication.

The plea agreement stated that on October 2006 to November 2010 on Saipan, Sanchez, after having been disconnected by CUC, tampered with his meter such that power was restored illegally. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Bill seeks to require CPUC to OK CUC loan above $500K

Rep. Stanley M. Torres (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill in the House requiring the Commonwealth Public Utilities Corp. to approve loans made by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in excess of $500,000.

Currently CUC can only secure a loan of more than $500,000 if approved by law, House Bill 17-205 states that in lieu of that provision, CPUC should be the approving body through the amendment.

"Since this provision was enacted, it has empowered the CPUC to regulate CUC. The Legislature finds that approval by law now rests in the hands of the CPUC, which has oversight over CUC borrowing," the bill noted.

It added that the CPUC is the proper body to consider CUC's financial position and analyze the terms of any loan available to CUC.

"In addition, the Legislature believes that CUC must be enabled to conduct its business without multiple reviews, and a review by both the CPUC and the Legislature would be duplicative and could damage CUC's ability to move forward expeditiously with any loan for which might qualify," Torres' bill stated. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHRM's Thursday meeting cancelled

The scheduled meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter on Thursday, July 28, has been cancelled, according to a notice issued by Chapter president Polly DLG. Masga. She did not cite a reason for the cancellation. The meeting was supposed to be the group's July general membership meeting and was to feature the topic "Setting Up a Low Cost Retirement or College Savings Plan." ***(PR)***

Wet weekend for MIFICPA

The Marianas Institute of CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, will hold an event on Aug. 13 - 14, 2011, called the "Managaha Summer Shower." It will be an overnight outing of fun, laughter, and games to once again celebrate accountants' togetherness and as one solid and professional group. MIFICPA will provide dinner but participants are advised to bring their own camping gear.

Accommodation is limited to 50 accountants on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is already open. For details, contact Aileen Indino at 287-0605 (e-mail aileenindino@yahoo.com) or Noli Santos at 285-6810 (e-mail nolsantos@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

NMPASI closed on Friday

The Northern Marianas Protection Advocacy Systems, Inc., more popularly known as NMPASI, will be closed on Friday, July 29, 2011, from 10am to 2pm. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach this week

Tina San Agustin, the Department of Veterans Affairs' legal administrative specialist from Guam and the Northern Marian Islands, will be on Saipan and Tinian from July 27 to 29 for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will also be entertaining veterans' questions and assisting with claims. Agustin's schedule is a follows:

■ July 27, 8:30am-4:30pm on Tinian at the Tinian Municipal Council's office

■ July 28-29, 8:30am-4:30pm on Saipan at the Military/Veterans Affairs office on Capitol Hill, building 1364. ***(PR)***

Hopwood grade 6 and 7 open registration

The open registration for seventh and eighth grade levels of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School is ongoing until July 29. Parents and guardians of enrolling students should provide the school with all the necessary documents to avoid any problem in the processing of their child's enrollment. Any new or transfer students must also provide proper documents to prevent any delay in their processing. For more information, contact the school at 237-3422/3395/3421. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy Training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force is conducting training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla until July 29, from 6:30am to 8:45pm.

The U.S. Navy is conducting training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) today, July 27, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The public--especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators--is advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Shirley's Coffee Shop employees pose after their beach cleanup behind the Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa. Some 25 of the restaurant's staff and family members took part in the monthly beach cleanup held last July 11.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Samoa blames 'small seats' for canceled flights

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Samoa's Prime Minister says the small seats on the aircraft used on the discontinued flight between Apia and Los Angeles made it a losing proposition from the start. Air New Zealand's final flight in January on the Tonga-Samoa-United States route followed years of losses and government subsidies. Tourism operators in Apia say the decision's damaged the industry and Prime Minister Tuilaepa says Air New Zealand never wanted it to work. "Why the flight was not profitable was that Air New Zealand flew this 767 with seats about this narrow and we are that large. So we sit on top of the arm rests all the time from here to the States. And we found that oversized Americans were also doing the same, and New Zealanders."

Nine missing in small boat off Papua New Guinea

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The search for a banana boat that went missing in Papua New Guinea waters two weeks ago has been turned over to the National Maritime Safety Authority on the presumption that the vessel's drifted into open water. The boat, carrying nine people, fuel and goods, left Siassi Island in Morobe Province on July the 13th but never reached its destination of Sagsag in West New Britain three hours across the Dampier Strait. The acting director of the Morobe diasaster management office, Charlie Masange, says the authority will have passed the information onto search and rescue agencies as well as passing ships.

PAI

From Page 1

ingham last Sunday lashed out at Pai in a press release to *Saipan Tribune* for failing "to ensure the confidentiality of OPA documents."

Although usually reticent about making public comments, Pai said he believes that a response to Buckingham's allegation is required.

"I take the responsibilities entrusted to OPA very seriously. One of those responsibilities is to maintain certain records in a confidential manner. I have taken, and always will take, all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that confidential records are maintained confidentially, including dealing severely with any OPA employee or contractor who violates such confidentiality requirements," he said.

Pai said OPA didn't have a hand in leaking the IG's report on the privatization of CNMI ARRA funds to the media.

"No circumstances have been presented to me to indicate any breach of our confidentiality standards. The complained of record was distributed to numerous other CNMI and federal government officials," he said.

The public auditor added that a copy of the report was issued in redacted form and can be accessed thorugh: http://www.doioig.gov/images/stories/reports/pdf/CNMIARRAManagement%20-%20Public.pdf

"Why OPA has been accused of such a leak I do not know or understand," he said. ***(See full text of Michael Pai's statement on Page 11)***

Pai, meanwhile, confirmed that OPA is in the process of routing a contract with the Law Offices of Sean E. Frink to represent them at a discounted hourly rate in the attorney general's lawsuit.

"Having to hire an attorney to handle a lawsuit filed by one government official against another is not something that I would like to see government spent money on. Unfortunately, the subject matter of the lawsuit requires outside counsel due to conflicts of interest with existing OPA attorneys," he said.

Pai said other allegations the attorney general raised in his press release to the *Saipan Tribune*, is better answered face to face.

"As to the other allegations contained in the *Tribune* article, I respectfully disagree and urge the Attorney General to address any issues with me and the way that my office is run, directly with me, rather than meeting with the press."

What will happen to ARRA funding?

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, for her part, hopes the "apparent violations" of CNMI procurement and ethics rules and regulations of Ada's sole-source contract wouldn't hurt the islands' chances of getting more ARRA fundings.

"It was apparent last October that the awarding of the ARRA contract to Ada raised questions, which is obviously why the DOI Inspector General and the Office of the Public Auditor conducted investigations. The DOI report revealed that there were indeed ethics and procurement violations, and stated that the contract was null and void. So the question now is, will any federal funds have to be returned and is remaining ARRA money in jeopardy because of the violations?" she said.

Doromal said as a federal taxpayer it is disappointing to keep hearing about the misuse of federal funds in the CNMI.

"Whether it's with an Arts Council grant, an Americorps grant, or ARRA funding, the refusal of the offending parties to take responsibility for the violations, the lame excuses and the ridiculous and unfounded criticism of Congressman Sablan is disturbing. The fact that the U.S. AG declined to prosecute the case is also perplexing," she said.

CHC

From Page 1

atrics; three at Family Practice; three in Internal Medicine; four at Obstetrics-Gynecology, and four at the emergency room, assisted by four physician assistants.

Due to doctor shortage, Muña said that many of their physicians are being forced to work long hours, sometimes even without overtime compensation.

The continuing funding shortfall also prevents them from hiring more doctors, Muña said.

The hospital's Children's Clinic was closed down in November last year due to the lack of pediatricians. The facility was partially reopened in February with only two pediatricians and limited services. Muña said the clinic's full reopening would depend on the entry of more physicians.

DPH was approved last year a J1 Conrad 30 visa waiver designation. The J-1 visa is for foreign nationals to come to the U.S. to do residency training. After completing his/her residency program, under the requirements of the J-1 visa, the MD needs to return to his/her country of origin for two years. After a two-year interval, the individual can apply to work in the U.S. under an H1-B visa. The J-1 visa waiver program is a way for these doctors to avoid returning to their countries of origin and begin working directly after completing their training. However, DPH has yet to really benefit from this process.

The number of physicians at CHC keeps changing as a result of retirement, resignation, relocation and other reasons.

CHINESE

From Page 1

"We have to find out what happened to the checks because it's for our employees' benefits. Our employees did not sign the checks, so how were the checks cleared?" he asked.

Zhao said that they had obtained information before that many Chinese nationals did not get their stimulus or rebate checks but because of the language barrier, they just went back to China without getting their checks.

He said they decided to expose this scam because they don't want this fraudulent scheme to happen again.

Zhao said they learned of the scheme when, after repeated follow-ups at Tax and Revenue, a staff gave them a list of checks that were supposedly released to their 10 employees.

The list indicates that the checks were released on July 24 and Aug. 13, 2010, and subsequently cleared on Sept. 29, 2010, Oct. 4, 10, 13, 18, 2010, and Nov. 1, 4, 15, 16, 2010.

Zhao said it is very suspicious that the checks cleared after three months of their release.

"If you receive your check, you don't wait for three months to cash it to the bank," Zhao said.

Bin Pan, who is among the 10 workers who did not get his check, said he is already tired of following up on his check, which would have been of great help to his family.

Pan said he regularly checked their post office box and followed it up for two months at Tax and Revenue in Dandan and on Capital Hill.

Pan said he and two others decided to file a complaint at DPS two weeks ago, but until now they have not received their police report. He said they also have a prior complaint with the FBI.

Shun Li said he has a 5-month-old baby and his wife is currently jobless so the check would have been a big help to them.

The eight other complainants are Wei Jin An, Lei Hai Zing, Wu Zin, Liu Ke Hong, Yu Ming, Li Xian Gang, Lu Li Jun, and Xia Jun.

The CNMI government started mailing some 10,000 refund checks worth some $6.4 million, as well as federal stimulus checks, in July 2010.

'Disgruntled GOP members welcome to join Democrats'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Disgruntled CNMI Republican Party members are welcome to join the CNMI Democratic Party, according to former lieutenant governor Jesus Borja.

Borja, who is the party's acting chair, said "[he] would look seriously into taking that opportunity to try and get members from those disgruntled people and welcome them to our party if they wish to join us in our ideals for what we feel is good for the people of the Commonwealth."

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan) came out publicly last week saying he and other Republican Party members view the July 8 GOP general membership meeting and subsequent election as a "hostile takeover under the guise of a merger or transition."

Borja, however, said that former GOP members—or for that matter any person—applying to become a member of the Democratic Party must still undergo the party's usual process of becoming a member.

"The board will have to discuss it and arrive at an agreement amongst themselves and present it also to the general membership," he said.

Borja said the local Democratic Party is currently undergoing reorganization, but begged off from discussing any further plans because "I'm just an acting chairman."

"We're going to soon have an organizational meeting where we are going to come up with all our officers and then the officers will then take off from that and move forward and start looking for candidates for the next election."

Borja said it is important to have a strong local Democratic Party, especially now that the lines between the local GOP and Covenant parties appear to have become blurred.

"We need to have some checks and balances so the people are protected in a sense that no one particular party or group of people is dominating our government. I'd like to see that different views are presented to the people and let the people decide," he said.

Asked if he is ready to lead a revitalized Democratic Party, Borja modestly replied: "I'm only the acting chair. I don't know if I will continue to be the chair but I will continue to assist."

Tebuteb last week wrote to former CNMI Republican Party president Juan I. Tenorio, saying he does not recognize newly elected CNMI GOP president Juan N. Babauta.

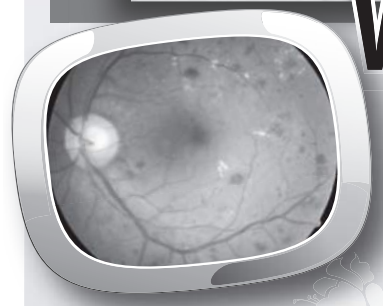
He also labeled as "unofficial" the general membership meeting and subsequent GOP election held on July 8 at the Garapan Central Park.

Tenorio, however, distanced himself from the issue and told *Saipan Tribune* to tell Tebuteb that he has already quit politics. "If he's not satisfied [with the election] he can write to the new chairman," Tenorio said.

HEALTH EMERGENCY
House and Senate members listen to testimonies during Friday's meeting to tackle the state of emergency at the Commonwealth Health Center. From left, Sen. Henry H. San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (Cov-Saipan), and medical referral director Ron Sablan.

MARK RABAGO

HARDT EYE CLINIC



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More teens turn to prostitution as cost of living goes up in Solomons

Government ministries and non-governmental organizations involved in promoting safe sex in the Solomon Islands believe teenage prostitution is on the rise as a result of poor economic conditions in the country.

The nation has been ranked as one of the countries with the worst rates in the region for sexually transmitted infections among teenagers.

The Ministry of Health's STI and HIV Program coordinator Isaac Molelua says teenage girls sometimes resort to sex for cash because their prospects are bleak and there is little other opportunity to earn money.

"We have done a lot of awareness out there in the communities but for people to change their behavior is another thing so I think it must be related to cost of living. People find it very hard to cope with the current situation now, life is expensive. Some people earn their way through that industry."

Molelua says it's often men in high positions who take advantage of teenagers desperate for cash. ***(Radio New Zealand International)***

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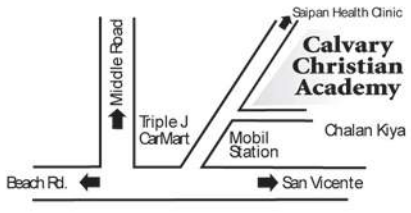

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Framingham graduates may get reduced grant amounts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sixteen students who graduated from Framingham State University Cohort 8 may soon get their financial awards from Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance—if the board approves on Friday the new recommendation of its administrator.

After reviewing all financial records of the program, SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider said yesterday that he came up with a proposal to give the students the grants they were supposed to get in the fall semester 2010 but at a lower amount.

For grant-in-aid recipients, who were supposed to get $1,200 for the fall 2010 semester, Hofschneider recommends giving them $800.

For field of study recipients, the new proposed rate is $1,000 from the previous $1,500, while incentive scholars, who were approved for $2,000, are recommended $1,000.

The new rates were based on the levels the board approved for the spring 2011 semester.

"It's still up to the board to decide. But once and for all, we want to settle this issue with the Framingham scholars," Hofschneider said.

Framingham graduates were earlier denied their awards due to a funding shortfall for the scholarship programs, even if their applications were approved by the previous SHEFA board.

The affected scholars claimed that they are fully entitled to the award because they all met SHEFA's requirements. The previous board, they said, had promised to reimburse their expenses once the funds become available.

Hofschneider said that SHEFA needs $75,200 to pay these students. He will propose to the board using cancelled checks that were earlier issued by the program.

He also disclosed that SHEFA has no lapsed funds from fall 2010 that could be used to reimburse the complaining scholars. He explained that graduate students are a second priority and SHEFA rules and regulations provide that awards are subject to the availability of funds.

The SHEFA board enforced an across the board cut in all its scholarship grants last spring 2011 semester due to declining poker revenues. For the new semester, the board is eyeing another drastic cut in financial awards and the termination of some grants.

Judge denies bid to compel Interior to respond in Brown shredding case

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has denied attorney Teresa K. Kim's motion to compel the U.S. Department of the Interior to answer to her interrogatories seeking information about Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown's shredding of records related to a census of aliens in the CNMI in 2009.

Judge Reggie B. Walton ruled that Kim's arguments, through counsel Deanne C. Siemer, failed to show that Interior acted in bad faith.

Citing precedent, Walton said that in order to justify discovery once the agency has satisfied its burden under the Freedom of Information Act to produce responsive documents, "the plaintiff must make a showing of bad faith on the part of the agency sufficient to impugn the agency's affidavits or declarations."

Kim, legal counsel of the CNMI Lieutenant Governor, filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against Interior to force it to produce records related to a census of aliens in the CNMI conducted by the Federal Ombudsman in December 2009. Kim alleged that Brown destroyed 20,000 documents. Brown's office is under Interior.

Siemer alleged that by destroying the original documents, Brown has destroyed the only information from which the most important conclusions drawn from Brown's census can be challenged.

Siemer said that Interior used the results of its informal census to answer three requests for information posed by the U.S. Congress: the number of aliens residing in the CNMI, description of the legal status (under federal law) of such aliens, and the number of years each alien has been residing in the CNMI.

In response to the motion, Interior claimed that the information was transferred to Excel spreadsheets prior to the destruction of the originals. DOI also objected to the seven interrogatories "on the basis that such discovery is inappropriate."

Kim argued that Interior's destruction of the census records is a potential violation of the Federal Records Act. She said Interior should have disclosed the destruction of the documents "in a more timely fashion." She also contends that Interior's production of responsive emails relating to the census records in PDF format sought to impede her ability to use the information.

In his five-page order issued last week, Walton said that Kim's "primary concern appears to be with the destruction of documents, as evidenced by the interrogatories."

"Even assuming that the destruction was a violation of the Federal Records Act, that violation has no bearing on the plaintiff's request for discovery," he said.

While the Federal Records Act does require agencies to retain certain documents, the "FOIA does not impose a document retention requirement on agencies."

Walton said Kim correctly points out that courts have occasionally sanctioned an agency for deleting relevant documents in FOIA litigation. "Yet, in those cases, the destruction occurred after the FOIA request was filed," the judge said.

In this case, Walton said, the destruction of documents occurred nearly five months before the FOIA request was even submitted.

"Consequently, although it is unfortunate that the documents are no longer available, discovery in this FOIA action is not appropriate because the defendant's duty under the FOIA is limited to producing documents in its possession at the time the FOIA request was made," Walton said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Pastor's house burglarized

The house of a Saipan Community Church pastor in Susupe was burglarized over the weekend.

The burglar or burglars stole a black Toshiba laptop satellite L505-S5993, a bag, two wallets, an undetermined amount of cash, and other items.

The stolen items, all belonging to associate pastor Roger Abe and his family, were stolen from the master's bedroom.

Abe's wife, Teresita, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a small boy was possibly used in the burglary as the point of entry was a small hole in the window.

Teresita Abe said the suspects managed to get inside the house by destroying the window's grill and breaking the glass.

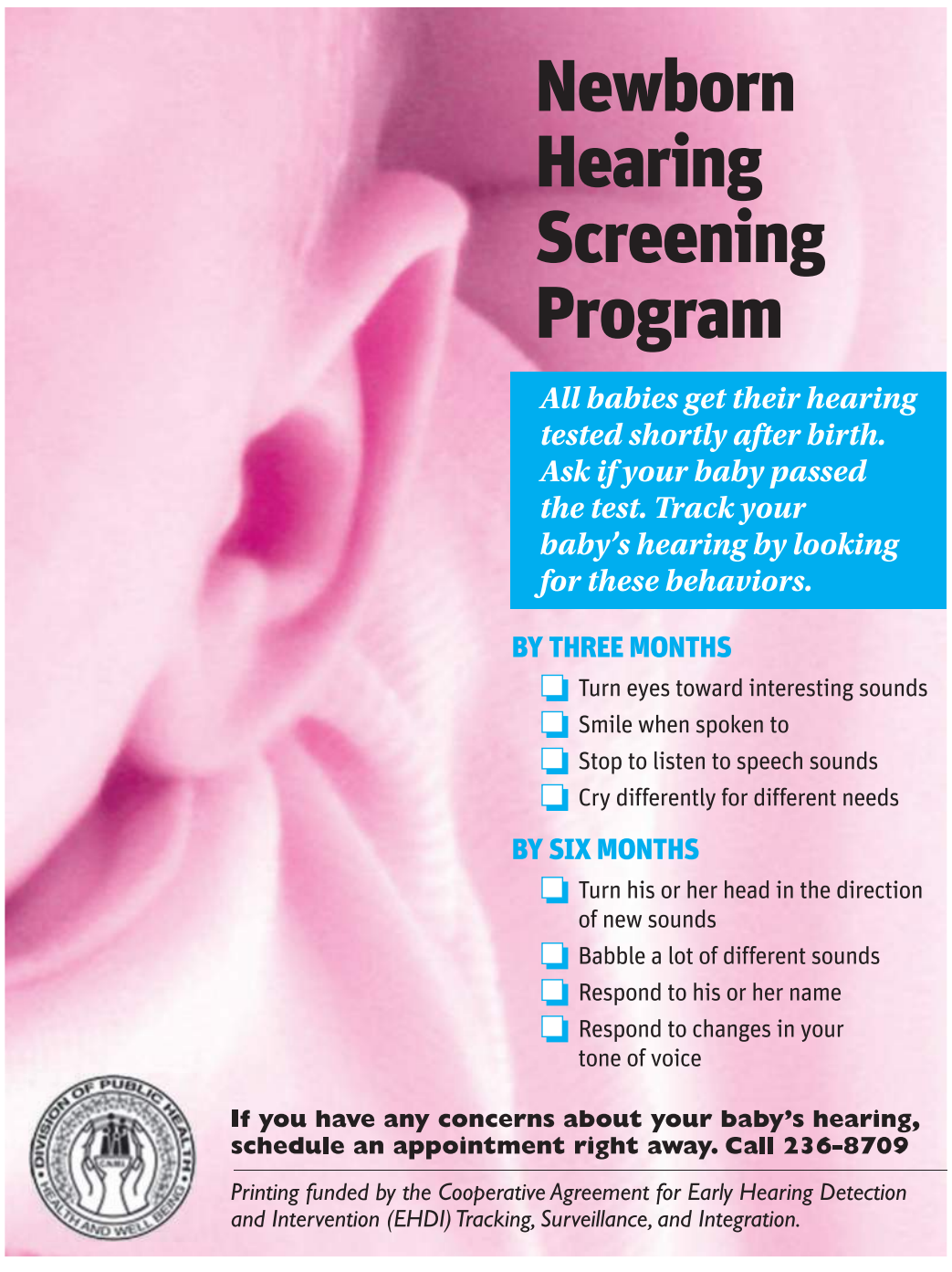
The Abe couple and their son left the house on Saturday at 8pm to attend Bible study in Koblerville. The family returned home at 12am because they had to join a birthday celebration.

Teresita Abe said they were surprised when they arrived as the lights were on in the rooms, including one room that they never use.

She said the burglars, who used the back door as exit point, left a tire wrench below the window.

She said they immediately called police. In their six-year stay on the island, this was the first time their house had been burglarized.

"It's not safe anymore in this island. The police should do something about it because burglary cases are now rampant," Teresita Abe said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Proposed Plan
for
American Memorial Park

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces that it will convene a meeting to engage public participation in its proposal to perform environmental cleanup of American Memorial Park in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). A Proposed Plan has been prepared to provide an overview of the contamination discovered at the former military site, the potential risks posed to human and ecological receptors, cleanup standards, and various remediation alternatives. It also selects a preferred remediation alternative for the site.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during a public meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the Proposed Plan and the remediation alternatives evaluated.

Meeting Date: **Wednesday, August 3, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**
Meeting Location: **American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater**

You may also submit written comments regarding the Proposed Plan to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Honolulu Engineer District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 252
CEPOH-PP-E (Helene Takemoto)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Fax: 808.438.6930
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

15 restrooms up for renovation at Saipan airport

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has approved the renovation of all restrooms at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

From the initial plan of renovating just 13 restrooms, the board decided to expand the renovation work to all restrooms in the entire airport on Saipan.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that funding for the project will come from the Federal Aviation Administration's airport improvement project program and a portion from the agency's local revenue.

"This project has been on our books for a long time and we need to move it forward. Funding has already been identified and we're thanking the board for making this project among its priorities," Deleon Guerrero said.

Besides the restroom improvements, the work will also include upgrading the airport's water pumps.

A new request-for-proposal will be announced soon, he said.

The board has also approved two change orders in the ongoing rehabilitation of the Saipan airport's main runway 7/25.

The Saipan International Airport's runway rehabilitation project has recorded overall cost of over $19 million to date, fully funded by the FAA.

The contractor for the project is Guam Pacific Power Corp. Inc. It is expected to be completed in October this year.

Deleon Guerrero said construction work at the runway is in full swing. The project has three phases and the construction schedule has been expanded to expedite completion.

The rehabilitation includes milling the existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay and other works. During the construction period, the main runway would still accommodate large aircrafts as construction will be closed during their flight schedules. For smaller aircraft, the newly built taxiway will accommodate them.

CPA earlier identified several airport initiatives that it wants FAA to fund. Among these projects are the airport master plan for the three islands and the procurement of additional vehicles for CPA's ARFF department.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/16 Sat	7/14 Thu	7/14 Thu	7/12 Tue	7/9 Sat	7/22 Fri	7/18 Mon	7/17 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/18 Mon	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	7/26 Tue
MELL SERAYA	002E	7/23 Sat	7/21 Thu	7/21 Thu	7/19 Tue	7/16 Sat	7/29 Fri	7/25 Mon	7/24 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	7/25 Mon	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	8/2 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	047E	7/30 Sat	7/28 Thu	7/28 Thu	7/26 Tue	7/23 Sat	8/5 Fri	8/1 Mon	7/31 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	8/1 Mon	8/5 Fri	8/7 Sun	8/9 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	059E	8/6 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/4 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/30 Sat	8/12 Fri	8/8 Mon	8/7 Sun	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	8/8 Mon	8/12 Fri	8/14 Sun	8/16 Tue
MELL SERAYA	003E	8/13 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/11 Thu	8/9 Tue	8/6 Sat	8/19 Fri	8/15 Mon	8/14 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/7 Sun	8/15 Mon	8/19 Fri	8/21 Sun	8/23 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	048E	8/20 Sat	8/18 Thu	8/18 Thu	8/16 Tue	8/13 Sat	8/26 Fri	8/22 Mon	8/21 Sun	8/14 Sun	8/14 Sun	8/22 Mon	8/26 Fri	8/28 Sun	8/30 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/30 Sat	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/3 Wed	8/6 Sat	8/7 Sun	SKIP	8/12 Fri	8/13 Sat	8/18 Thu	9/6 Tue	8/21 Sun	8/17 Wed
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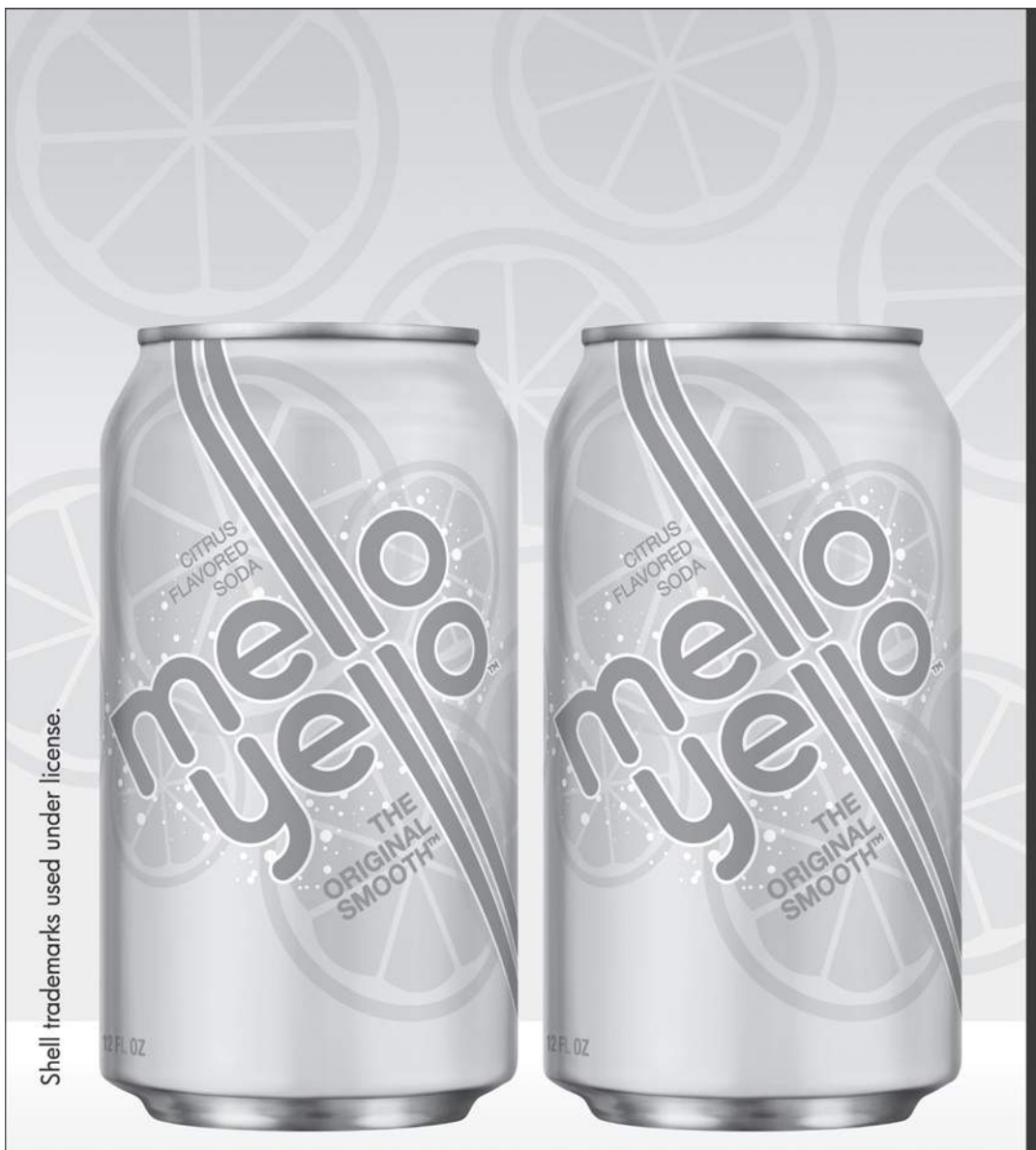

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Social Security to close earlier starting Aug. 15

The Saipan Social Security Office will begin closing at 2:30pm daily due to congressional budget cuts that are forcing the reduced public hours, according to a statement yesterday.

Effective Aug. 15, 2011, the Saipan Social Security office will be open to the public Monday through Friday, from 8am to 2: 30pm—a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday.

While agency employees will continue to work their hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face–to-face service with the visiting public without incurring the cost of overtime.

Congress provided Social Security with nearly $1 billion less than President Barack Obama requested for the budget this fiscal year, "which makes it impossible for the agency to provide the amount of overtime needed to handle service to the public as we have in the past," the Saipan office statement said.

Most Social Security services do not require a visit to an office. For example, anyone wishing to apply for benefits, sign up for direct deposit, replace a Medicare card, obtain a proof of income letter or inform Social Security of a change of address or telephone number may do so at www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing the toll-free number 1-800-722-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the TTY number 1-800-3250778. ***(PR)***

Team Advance Group donates 2 AC units to MINA and PMRI

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Pacific Marine Resources Institute offices will be feeling a little bit cooler this summer, thanks to a Team Advance Group donation of two energy-efficient air conditioning units for the environmental non-profit organizations.

CONTACT INFO

TEAM ADVANCE GROUP
Web: www.teamadvancegroup.com
Tel: 233-4747

MINA: www.minapacific.org
PMRI: www.pacmares.com
Tel: 233-7333 (REEF)

MINA

Team Advance Group general manager Butch Y. Sigua, left, and staff have their picture taken inside their offices on Beach Road in the Naked Fish Building in Garapan.

MINA's executive director, Sam Sablan, had this to say about Team Advance Group's generous donation: "I'm extremely thankful for their donation and I believe this donation is a clear indication of their commitment toward helping small organizations such as MINA and PMRI grow, as well as learning and educating others about CNMI's environment."

Advance Group general manager Butch Y. Sigua said that since they set up shop in 2005, they "believed in [putting] the environment first," and have upheld that idea in all of the products they sell. This includes residential pesticides that are biodegradable and safe for use around humans and pets, as well as air conditioning units that use R-410A Freon gas systems that do not significantly impact the ozone layer.

"CUC's power [rate] increase has become a growing burden, forcing MINA to reduce their office hours so that we can maintain our goals of using low power consumption while conducting business," Sablan said.

Team Advance Group, located on Beach Road in the Naked Fish Building in Garapan, began as a pest control firm in 2005. However, a chance hire of an employee with a background in A/C unit repair led to the development of their air conditioning branch. Team Advance Group is fully staffed with certified technicians and an in-house certified HVAC engineer capable of working on their Federal, Goodman, and Heil air conditioning systems. ***(MINA)***

Air Tahiti Nui puts Airbus up for rent, sale

»Possibility pilots, flight attendants affected by change

PAPEÉTE, Tahiti (Tahiti-presse/PIR)—Air Tahiti Nui announced this week that it will either sell or rent one of its five Airbus A 340.

Today, the airline has no need of five planes, an Air Tahiti Nui press release states.

The switch from four to five planes will be done as soon as possible, the press release adds.

The airline has several flights each week to the U.S., France, New Zealand, and Japan.

But Air Tahiti Nui stopped flying to two other destinations—New York and Sydney—a few years ago.

The Air Tahiti Nui press release did not give more details about the change.

It is not clear if this decision will affect the Air Tahiti Nui staff in Papeete. Some observers fear several pilots and flight attendants will be laid off.

A pilot's strike lasted five days at the end of June. Another strike took place a week ago, during 24 hours, to support current CEO Cedric Pastour.

G4S

PAINT JOB

G4S management team gets together after completing a painting job at the Grotto Pavilion as a part of their commitment to the CNMI's tourism industry.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 27, 1999

CNMI hails congressional probe of Interior officials

Commonwealth leaders yesterday hailed efforts by the US. House Resources Committee to investigate alleged violations of the Hatch Act by some Department of the Interior officials over their conduct related to the Northern Marianas labor situation. Chairman Dan Young (R-Alaska) has summoned Interior Secretary Bruce Babbit, Office of the Insular Affairs acting director Ferdinand Aranza and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for the probe in a subpoena issued early this month. To avoid being cited for contempt by the Congress, Aranza has turned over records contained in the OIA computer software and hardware to the committee.

New law defines 'public purpose'

What is the definition of "public purpose?" In an effort to clear ambiguity of the phrase, acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan has signed into law a bill that will set the guidelines for government officials and elected leaders when they are invoking "public purpose." Passed by the Legislature in the wake of a dispute between legislators and finance officials over use of public funds, the new law clarifies the constitutional provision of the term. Sablan said the definition is long overdue that the Legislature should have acted on earlier as stipulated under Amendment 28 of the Constitution.

July 27, 2000

New tax system increases collection efficiency

Faced with pressures to refill stressed public coffers, the Department of Finance is fast-tracking the installation of a new tax system eyed to improve the government's revenue collection capabilities and reduce margin of errors in the processing of tax returns. According to Finance Secretary Lucy G. Nielsen, implementation of the new CNMI tax system is expected to be completed by next year since it is already over 75 percent complete. "We may be required to take another year to complete the automation project. We are excited about this new system, and we are of course looking at operating the hardware in another two years after the software is completely installed," Ms. Nielsen said.

Teno OK's funds for Saipan Mayor's Office

The Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday received fresh funding to meet its mounting financial obligations as Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio approved two appropriation bills setting aside close to $250,000 for its operations and payment of debts. The money will come from revenues from bingo, batu and cockfight fees in the island municipality, including $171,700 from previous collection and $78,100 from new payments made by game operators. In signing the two bills, Tenorio cautioned the municipal government that reprogramming of the funds should be guided by provisions of the Planning and Budgeting Act.

July 27, 2001

Gov't to decide on landfill bidding protest in 10 days

The court battle involving the Marpi landfill project is now over, tossing a bidding protest back to the Procurement and Supply Division that vowed to render a decision within the next 10 days. This developed as the clamor to close the Puerto Rico dumpsite remains strong from different sectors, including the judge who handled the case. The Puerto Rico dumpsite may just take over a year to fill to the maximum level, according to a study. The Superior Court yesterday dismissed the Motion for Preliminary Injunction filed by Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific Corp., affirming the agreement that the consortium entered into with Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda and Procurement and Supply director Herman S. Sablan.

Fitial defends CNMI from online 'bashers'

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday lambasted the authors of a website which ridicules Saipan and insults the people of the CNMI with sweeping and malicious allegations. Fitial made his displeasure known even as government authorities are reportedly trying to pin down the source of the anti-Saipan smear drive. "This is clearly a demolition job, the handiwork of a sick mind." "We have here an irresponsible, bitter, insensitive individual who definitely has an ax to grind against us, as people. It is clear he could not settle his grievances shoulder-to-shoulder, so he is getting back at us anonymously, through this post in the website," said Fitial.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 011 D 24, containing an area of approximately 707 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Rigel Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors for the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, and Shao Hong C. Walker.

The President of the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Vice President is Shaoli Che, and Secretary/Treasurer is Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for expansion of their Iron Horse Auto Shop, parking space for customers' and employees' vehicular and other related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 D 24, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 707 square meters, mås pat menus,ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Rigel Corporation, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha para i Corporation si Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, yan si Shao Hong C. Walker.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Ning Ning Li, i sigundu Presidenti si Shaoli Che, yan i Sekritåriu / Tresureriu si Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Manual J. Alvarez.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai para i mana'dångkulun i iyo-ñiha Iron Horse Shop, kåmpun parking para i kåstuma siha yan i tumobit emple'åo yan ottru ni mana'achuli' siha na operasion.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi duråntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha såsåonåo i existing structure(s).

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di August 4, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMWOL AKKILON-UL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke issiswoow ammataf igha e tipáli ebwe tingóór ebwe akkila eghus mereel falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Ngáliir toulap schóókka re mwuschel nge rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng me ngáre angiingi reel ifa meleil pomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoor lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilon-ul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 011 D 24, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw fissuw (707) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghi ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schééschél lessee nge Rigel Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur (Board of Directors) Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Shaoli CHE, ME Shao Hong C. Walker. President-il Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Vice President nge Shaoli Che, me Secretary/Treasurer nge Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe yááyá bwuley yeel reel ebwe atomwoghaló yaar Iron Horse Auto Shop, me parking space-il gharetta waar customers me schóól angaang me bwal akkááw mwóghut.

Tool aighúúghúl pomwol akkilon yeel nge reweigh me limwoow (25) ráágh, me ngáre e tipáli nge ebwe bwal sóbweló akkilon yeel bwal seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol tool annual rental yeel nge ebwe bweibwogh mereel percentage-il reel méél falúw (appraised fair market value), me bwal akkayúú kka elo llól.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul akkilon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Commercial Building, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) esáál bweibwogh mwo meleil pomwol akkilon kka falúweer toulap mellól Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweeer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mwáliili, mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa meleil pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli rebwe issisolong wóól me ngáre mmwal August 4, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúliyúl.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 011 L 01, containing an area of approximately 735,023 square meters, more or less, situated in Unai Dangkulu, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is Suwaso Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres (Chairman), and Phillip Mendiola-Long.

The President and Treasurer of the Corporation is Yusuke Fumoto. The Vice President is Vincent DLG. Torres. The Secretary is Phillip Mendiola-Long.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Vincent DLG. Torres.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating and maintaining a golf course and cottage type resort and related facilities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 10, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 L 01, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 735,023 square meters, putlumenus mås, ni gaige gi Inai Dångkulu, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Suwaso Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Korporasion si Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres (Kabesiyu) yan si Phillip Mendiola-Long.

I Presidenti yan Treasurer gi Korporasion si Yusuke Fumoto. I sigundu Presidenti si Vincent DLG. Torres. I Sekritåriu si Phillip Mendiola-Long.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Vincent DLG. Torres.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion yan maintaining golf course yan cottage type resort yan mana'achuli' na fasilidåt siha.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi duråntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na ekstension atkilon na kontråta siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 10, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór bwe extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) llól Consttitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka re mwuschel rebwe issisilong yaar aghiyegh, aweewe, angiingil pomwo kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me bwal Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Akkilonul falúw yeel nge ekke bwáárilló bwe public land Lot No. 011 L 01, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw eliigh me limwoow sangaras, reweigh me eluuw (735,023) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Unai Dangkulu, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge Suwaso Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres (Samwoolul), me Phillip Mendiola-Long.

President me Treasurer reel Corporation yeel nge Yusuke Fumoto. Vice President nge Vincent DLG. Torres. Secretary nge Phillip Mendiola-Long.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mr. Vincent DLG. Torres.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe kke yáálí bwuley reel mwóghutu me ayoora golf course me tapal cottage resort me akkááw akkayúú.

Term-il abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental ghal term nge ebwe féér mereel percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties kkaal.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli wóól me ngáre mmwal Elúwel (August) 10, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Caylee's Law won't work

Recipe for pander porridge: Take spicy if deeply flakey criminal defendant who in the eyes of many got away with murder, add crowd-pleasing legislation making her aberrant behavior a crime, and stir. Place in super-heated media environment until well done. Serve to constituents while still piping hot.

This is the distasteful dish being cooked up by politicians in at least 16 states—including, we're sorry to say, California—in reaction to the acquittal of Casey Anthony. The recipe originated soon after an Orlando jury ruled July 5 that Anthony was not guilty of killing her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, when Michelle Crowder of Oklahoma launched an online petition on the social-change website Change.org. "There should be a new law created called Caylee's Law that will make it a felony for a parent or guardian to not notify law enforcement of a child going missing within 24 hours," says the petition, which as of Wednesday had attracted nearly 1.3 million signatures.

Only too happy to agree were California Assembly members Paul Cook and Holly Mitchell. Cook plans to introduce a bill that would make it a felony for parents or guardians to fail to report a missing child under 12 within 48 hours, or to fail to report the death of a child within two hours. Mitchell's bill is even tougher, criminalizing the failure to report the death or disappearance of a child under 14 within 24 hours.

California lawmakers love tough-on-crime bills that boost prison sentences for bad guys, but what's dismaying about the so-called Caylee's Law is that it criminalizes bad parenting. It's not hard to imagine the result. There are all too many indigent and uninvolved parents in California, many with substance-abuse or mental health problems, who will end up in court if either bill becomes law, while their kids, who might have run away or gone to a friend's house for a day or two, will be more likely to end up in foster care. That might be for the best in some cases, but it will produce more broken families and more taxpayer expense.

Moreover, it's not clear what problem the law would solve. It wouldn't have changed much in the Casey Anthony case. Anthony waited a month to report her daughter missing, and if such a law had existed in Florida at the time of Caylee's disappearance, another felony might have been tacked onto the charges against Anthony and, if convicted, she might have spent a few more months in jail. But that wouldn't have changed her acquittal on murder charges, which is what is fueling popular outrage.

Obviously, people should report dead or missing children, but if parents are responsible for their deaths, a new law won't compel them to do so. There is only one practical reason these bills are appearing on the legislative menu: They pander to voters, most of whom are unaware of the unintended consequences that would result from their passage. Lawmakers should send them back to the kitchen.

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MEN
MURDOCH
"AND ANOTHER THING: WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THESE INVASION OF PRIVACY CHARGES ARE COMPLETELY OVERBLOWN?"

Marianas people stand

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

We want to be a gecko on the wall and eavesdrop on Governors Calvo and Fitial's conversations on unifying the Marianas Islands.

It was not too long ago when we were directing the affairs of the Marianas Resource Center at Oleai on Saipan for the United Methodist Church that we put words to the song Follow Me sang by the late John Denver, and encouraged the Chamolinian folks to stand tall. We adopted it to our San Vicente grade school audience, and we rewrote it for our Zhongguo students this past term. The song and its new lyrics replacing China's geography with Marianas, goes:

It's by far the hardest thing we've ever done
to claim the days' ahead, and beyond.

Marianas people stand,
over the ocean, on the land;
from the north skies
to the island of Guahan.
Be the care we can be,
taotao tano und tasi;
we are able and
we want the world to know.

We're going to tell the wondrous story
of all the things we've done;
victories we've won or lost
from the places where we've come.
Building tomorrow
with flame trees that we grow;
our people's choice in deep resolve:
"We make this Earth our home."

We're going to call out everybody,
going to join the ones who'll stand,
those who care to spend their lives
in the greening of this land.
Rights to all resources,
peace with justice we will hold;
the mighty acts of people's power,
in our lives to behold.

We're going to be the old creation,
to sing a brand new song.
A healthy people proud and free,
in caring, we are strong.
The people of this planet
will share our destiny;
our island's power a gift to all,
the world's humanity.

We're going to tell the hopeful story
of all the things we'll do;
victories we'll win or lose
in the places where we'll go.
Building the future
with flame trees that we grow,
our people's choice in deep resolve:
"We make this Eaarth our home."

We lived in Guam in the early half of the '80s and we had wondered then why we would continue to be a split Marianas when ethnically and historically, we are one entity. But for the U.S.' limited desire for a coaling station between Hawaii and the Philippines as it positioned itself for the China market, it only bought Guam after the Spanish-American War; it had no interest in the rest of the islands as they were not resource-rich, or, by Spain's account, the State Department may not even have known that other islands existed. Our cynical view sees "divide and conquer" as strategy in order to have an external military that will preside over the internal affairs of the Marianas islands, and later, take a divergent direction from those of the rest of Micronesia.

Don Farrell's new edition of his historical narrative of the area now comes in two volumes. Vol. One's title is very telling: The history of the Mariana Islands to the Partition, in contrast to the earlier edition of the history of the Northern Mariana Islands. Vol. Two awaits publication. Implied in the title is reunification.

The Republican Governors' Fitial et Calvo tete-a-tete on remerging a single political entity *vis*-à-*vis* the U.S. government does not come as a surprise, though we would be happier were it done transparently in the open, and engage broader participation.

The Paracell and Spratley islands, and others in the South China Sea, were virtually ignored as a Qing dynasty domain until we discovered black gold under its continental shelf. Now

See MARIANAS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wrestling with flights

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

There are flights of sort that are very unsettling because of their magnitude in losses for both the industry affected and the CNMI coffers. It includes severe reduction of flights out of Japan to the CNMI. The domino effect triggered the downsizing of inter-island air services. And, there's the flight of our children as we wrestle with severe economic disaster at home.

The reduction of air service from various cities in Japan has brought tourism here to its knees. Less inter-island flights have also placed commerce and domestic travel at a virtual standstill. The flight of our children is now at the mercy of a scholarship program also adversely affected by the economic meltdown.

The huge spike in oil prices has dealt the airline industry huge losses to the tune of $400 million per day on a worldwide basis. Carriers had to cut out destinations where it has experienced substantial revenue losses. It means the traveling public has done very little hopping between airports.

Recently, Delta had to cut out additional major hubs across the country. Japan Airlines did the same that involved terminating thousands of employees worldwide. It even shut down its CNMI operations and reduced its operations in Guam and Hawaii.

In the case of Delta, it is especially "acute because the airline operates in most of the small airports that receive a total of almost $200 million in federal subsidies to maintain air service under the Essential Air Service program. The subsidies are scheduled to expire in 2013 unless revived by Congress. Delta acquired many of those small-city markets in the Midwest when it merged with Northwest Airlines.

The CNMI has reportedly lost about $77.2 million and $204.4 million annually in direct and indirect economic opportunities for its Japan market. It's a huge financial vacuum to fill that awaits innovation to gradually return tourism to normalcy as we used to know. Definitely this is easier said than done, but we had our chance to improve upon what we used to have years ago. Instead, there was the lackadaisical attitude punctuated with pomp and circumstance intoning "que sera, sera."

Students on scholarship must venture into other financial aid programs available in the U.S. Looking into this opportunity and securing minimum requirements ought to erase reliance on funds you can never rely on these days. It takes out the worries about paying for apartments and tuition on time. Too, there are more bad tidings in the impending fiscal year in so far as revenue generation is concerned. So it's best to explore what's available near you.

Japanese travelers are especially sensitive to negative shifts in the local and global markets. About a decade or so ago, the Asian financial flu forced most folks to stay closer to home. The recent triple disasters in Fukushima did the same thing on the traveling public. Flight reductions have definitely worked against the local tourism industry. It's something to ponder as we plan the economic future of these isles.

■ ■ ■

Toying with geopolitics

It's fun rummaging through geopolitical materials that include a personal outline of complex issues, who did what to whom, the subsequent measures taken through diplomatic channels, what was discussed, meeting aborted due to serious disagreements or agreements reached, and the consequence of bold moves where international diplomacy nearly failed.

I suppose I relish my role as an armchair diplomat sitting under a lemon tree second-guessing resultant answers among G-5, G-8 and other Gs, including ASEAN and other regional bodies in convention centers somewhere near and far. I'd plow through economic views from the best minds in the global village. Some have admitted how wrong they were on issues they have preached for the last 40 years on global economics and financing. And I was like, "Hell, what changed your mind, sir" or "what was it that you missed on a substantive basis?"

Then I came across a book written by a renowned journalist who decided to quit the reportorial or editorial scene so he could venture into the real world to figure out what has changed in paradigms that most people at the helm have missed altogether. Specifically, how did the Taliban demonstrate power on the last day of the 30-day war as if it was the first? What was it that they have learned that most professors in laboratories across the globe haven't been able to grasp in an effort to find real answers?

A lot of the materials discussed by the journalist are above a nimble islander's mind. I mean he's reduced technological advances and global warfare into simple answers we've ignored for so long. He discovered why even our enemies have succeeded in running down the best strategies we've organized among the so-called laboratory experts and professors in situation or war rooms. And the enemies' strategists live among targeted societies in the Middle East.

Startling the discovery of new paradigms that eventually became geopolitical strategies now followed to the letter. We finally parroted their way of doing small and big wars. Recently, we heard the announcement that al-Qaida would soon be destroyed permanently. Or that global recovery is protracted or would be delayed. I tried to relate these paradigms to local conditions. But there's nothing up that alley as to be so profoundly embarrassing. Not when the illustrious so-called "elected" have simply opted to dish out arrogance as their sporty trophy.

■ ■ ■

Need for foundations

Retired and experienced experts have informally discussed the need to work on the establishment of a quasi research or independent foundation for the NMI. Its purpose is to assist both branches of government in their policy-making efforts especially on socio-economic issues.

The research should put into perspective most issues before they are translated into policy matters. It gives the prospective author a fully rounded conception and understanding of the issue before him as he works committee rooms to move his legislation.

But this undertaking would require lots of money, time and energy. We want to ensure that we retain the services of real credentialed experts, not just any expert out in the streets. Will keep you posted on this matter in that we have to have some seed funds to get it off the ground.

The final product in policy-making ought to be a plus for all. It encourages sure-footed legislation premised on a set of researched and real facts, not perceptual facts.

Letters to the Editor

OPA speaks out

I have been asked to comment on an article that appeared in the July 25, 2011, *Saipan Tribune* in which the Office of the Public Auditor was accused by the attorney general of leaking a confidential report to the press. Although I believe that such matters are best handled quietly and effectively and I am generally hesitant to make public comments, I believe that a response to this allegation is required.

I take the responsibilities entrusted to OPA very seriously. One of those responsibilities is to maintain certain records in a confidential manner. I have taken, and always will take, all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that confidential records are maintained confidentially, including dealing severely with any OPA employee or contractor who violates such confidentiality requirements. Indeed, all OPA employees and agents are required to take an oath of confidentiality. Any violation of this oath results in sanctions and in some cases, criminal penalties. Of course, once a confidential record is properly marked, concealed, and distributed outside of OPA, there is no way of policing any redistribution by official recipients.

I strongly suspect that the record that Attorney General Buckingham accuses OPA of leaking to the press was not, in fact, leaked by OPA. No circumstances have been presented to me to indicate any breach of our confidentiality standards. The complained of record was distributed to numerous other CNMI and federal government officials. Moreover, a copy of the report was to be issued in redacted form: http://www.doioig.gov/images/stories/reports/pdf/CNMIARRAManagement%20-%20Public.pdf. Why OPA has been accused of such a leak I do not know or understand.

As to OPA recently retaining a lawyer to represent it in the lawsuit that the attorney general filed against it regarding contract processing issues, this is correct information. We are in the process of routing a contract with the Law Offices of Sean E. Frink to represent the OPA at a discounted hourly rate in the attorney general's lawsuit. Having to hire an attorney to handle a lawsuit filed by one government official against another is not something that I would like to see government spent money on. Unfortunately, the subject matter of the lawsuit requires outside counsel due to conflicts of interest with existing OPA attorneys. Additionally, arguments made within the lawsuit challenge OPA's autonomy and thus its ability to serve the public effectively. Unfortunately, defending this lawsuit will cost the public money. We have been waiting for the approval of the Frink firm's contract by the attorney general and other contract signatories so that OPA can then meet with the attorney general and his attorneys in order to try to settle the lawsuit quickly, hopefully with minimal cost to the CNMI taxpayers. I am hopeful that once we are able to enter into settlement discussions and talk about this lawsuit, the attorney general will realize that he and I do not view the issues involved, and the related solutions, very differently.

As to the other allegations contained in the *Saipan Tribune* article, I respectfully disagree and urge the attorney general to address any issues with me and the way that my office is run, directly with me, rather than meeting with the press.

Michael Pai
CNMI Public Auditor

MARIANAS

From Page 10

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan are jockeying for position to claim a part of the action, especially since crude gold supply is thought to have peaked already, or about to in this decade.

If history were an indication, it is the Seven Sisters that really want to deprive China of its fields, and their 10-percent leavings of total gain from exploration and harvest, as is the case in the Philippines and Brunei, is insufficient to salve the sovereign pride of the countries involved.

There is good reason for the Marianas to get its house taga posts in good order. West of the Marianas Trench are minerals and possibly oil deposits. There might just be treasures in them depths, and on them hills! And China has no call at all.

So, Marianas people, stand!

Why a casino industry on Saipan will be successful

As everyone knows, Rota and Tinian have existing casino laws authorizing the operation of casinos on their respective islands. Rota had a small casino but it was not successful because it was undercapitalized and is currently closed. The Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been operating on Tinian since 1997. However, the hotel stills owes the central government about $30 million in back taxes. So, people of the Commonwealth, wake up and smell the stench of a bankrupt CNMI government.

Leaders of Saipan are very concerned about the state of the entire CNMI economy, especially Saipan, where most of Chamorros and Carolinians reside. They are using their fiduciary duties given to them by the CNMI Constitution to pass a local bill that will allow up to six casinos, including one casino for all indigenous CNMI descent.

Why would a casino industry on Saipan will be successful? Because historically, every industry that has been developed on Saipan has been successful. For example, the garment industry. At one point the industry was exporting well over billion dollars to the United States. Same with the tourism industry. At one point we had over 700,000 tourists coming to Saipan.

With casinos on Saipan, we have the tourist numbers, we have the infrastructure—roads, water, power, hotels, services, entertainment, golf courses, shopping—and all amenities to satisfy them. Investors are not stupid. They will invest in a place that guarantee them a return on their investments and Saipan is the perfect place to do that.

As noted by our former governor and now congressman Froilan Tenorio in last Friday's news article, Saipan can realize up to $500 million in potential revenue for the local government from a fully developed casino industry. Imagine what this money can do for our government. For one thing, the government can start putting back the 80 hours work time for all government employees. We can fully fund our Retirement Fund system, we can send our patients to good hospitals for their referrals, we can put more funding for the SHEFA scholarship to fund college students as well as our local Northern Marianas Trade Institute students, and many more.

My advice to all members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, pass House Bill 17-44, the Saipan casino bill, so that you can stop once and for all the miseries besetting our islands.

Vicente M. Sablan
Kagman III, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

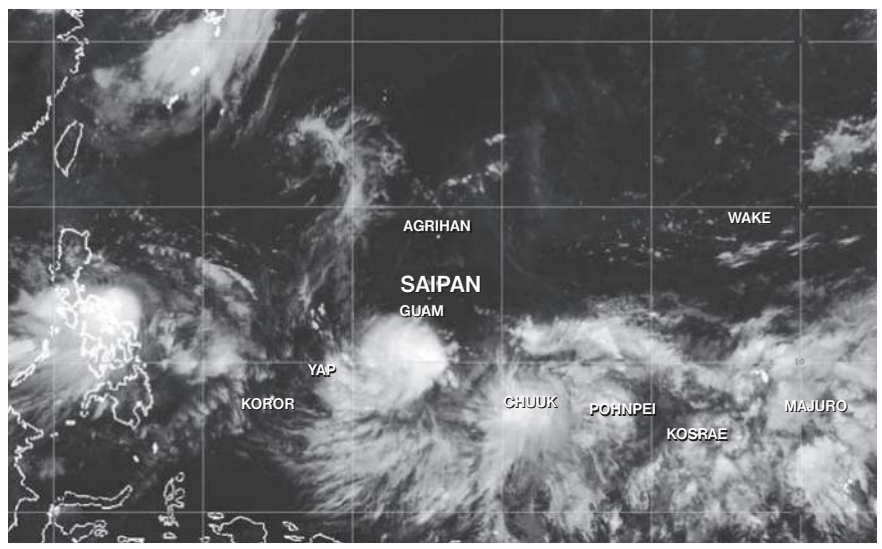
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲81	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲83	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲82	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲85	▼75
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲92	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼82
Melbourne	Sunny	▲60	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼56
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Rome	Thundershowers	▲80	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼75
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲93	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

At 100 PM CHST, Tropical Depression 11W was centered west-southwest of Chuuk near 6N144E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Guam within 150 miles of a line from 8N139E to 11N146E. Converging low-level winds south of 11W are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Yap and Koror between 7N and the equator from 137E to 150E. For more information on Tropical Depression 11W, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM or bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 13N130E through Tropical Depression 11W then turns northeastward to end north of Pohnpei at 11N148E. Scattered showers are found northwest of Koror west of a line from 16N133E to 9N133E. Numerous showers and isolated showers are located over Chuuk between 10N and 4N from 150E to 154E farther east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 12N152E to 10N157E to EQ156E. A tropical disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from EQ158E to 12N166E to 10N180 to 3N180 back to EQ158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:18 AM	3:39 PM
Thursday	3:12 AM	4:33 PM
Friday	4:09 AM	5:25 PM
Saturday	5:08 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	7:03 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Moot point

Dear Congressman Tebuteb: Thank you for your concern referencing the July 8, 2011, general membership meeting of the Republican Party of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which you have registered as "unofficial GOP meeting."

I have to respectfully beg to differ with your notion that the July 8 meeting is unofficial. It is official because the meeting was properly publicly announced in the newspaper. Unfortunately, there were only two Republican elected who attended the meeting.

And yes, you are correct that when I was the president of the Republican Party of the CNMI, I have always taken time to give prior notice to all the current sitting Republican Congress of some, if not all, of the activities the party would engage and/or plan to undertake or consider. You are also the very most, amongst all members, who would always acknowledge my message(s) and attend the function. But when only one, two or three of the current sitting congressmen are showing up, all good things must come to an end.

I personally regret that I did not inform you and the other sitting members of the Republican Congress about the publicly announced general membership meeting prior to its announcement. Please accept my personal apology to you.

Now, your concern referencing the blatant disregard of Article V, Section 13 of the Republican Party of the CNMI bylaws is, in my own opinion, moot. Please allow me to get the record straight.

In recent past (2005) the officers and members of the Republican Party have endorsed an individual who had previously run as an Independent candidate against the Republican Party candidates, to run under the Republican banner without compliance of any section of Article V of the GOP bylaws. He has not met the qualification as established under Article V, Section 11 and 13. The action taken by the former leadership of the party has also violated every section of Article V but it was OK.

Furthermore, back then, I know for a fact, as a very active member of the party and very active officer of the Precinct Club, that no Executive Committee was ever established to carry out the mandates of Article V. This blatant action was unanimously approved by the silent action of the former board members, officers of the party, sitting elected officials, and party members.

As an active member of the party, I do not remember any of the prior and current sitting members of the GOP Congress raise any issue with the blatant disregard of the GOP bylaws, Article IV, Section 13. I am disheartened that you have raised this issue now and not then. I wonder why? I strongly believe that the Republican Party of the CNMI has established a precedent in the recent past and as such, we shall continue to follow until such time that Article V, Section 18 has been fulfilled.

My good congressman, as I have publicly stated on three separate occasion through the newspaper, I am no longer affiliated with any political party. As such, Juan N. Babauta is the current president and state chairman of the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands.

With all due respect!

Juan I. Tenorio
Former president of the GOP

Don't abolish the Mayor's Office

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero has introduced House Legislative Initiative 17-6 to abolish the Saipan Mayor's Office and save $1.9 million annually. If Congressman Deleon Guerrero is serious about this idea, maybe we should first close the Lower House and re-arrange the Legislature to make it unicameral like Guam and the city councils of many of the cities in the mainland. The District Legislature of the Mariana Island District during the TTPI was one house. Close the Saipan Mayor's Office and save $1.9 million. Close the Lower House and save $10 million. Reduce the Legislative Bureau and save even more.

I say that the municipal government is like a city government. You need at least a legislative branch and an executive branch. How else could you sign bills and resolutions into law and service the island's needs? The council cannot sign its own bills into ordinances the way our municipal government is designed. Congressman de Leon Guerrero would have to create a mechanism wherein the municipal council could sign its own bills into law without an executive branch. Close one and you have to close the other. Close both branches of the municipality and you just shut down the municipality of Saipan. One cannot save $1.9 million this way. The employees and the community at large are going to swarm over to food stamp, Medicare, CUC credits, etc. A critical welfare situation.

Congressman Deleon Guerrero did not include the mayor's offices of Rota and Tinian. Why? It is because of "inbidiu?" Envy? A disappointment over something he did not get? Is he flexing his political muscle? The municipal government of Saipan is the government of the people. It is the people. I asked the *man'amko*: Who was the first mayor elected on Saipan? They told me Tun Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan. The first Saipanese to be elected in 1945 to the highest local office of the time. Tun Goru Kilili, for me, is our George Washington. His election as the first mayor of Saipan was the beginning of our municipal legacy. Congressman Deleon Guerrero shall not destroy that legacy. The municipality is us. It's ours. The mayor's office won't be closed. What will be closed is the Lower House of our CNMI Legislature.

Each mayor left a legacy to be reckoned with. Our line of mayors. Our line of municipal councils. Our line of council speakers. Imagine, since 1945, our government. Congressman Fred Deleon Guerrero wants to shut down that venerable office. I do not agree that a congressman from one small precinct should take a gigantic step to shut down our Saipan, and even the Northern Marianas mayoral offices. Long live our Mayor's Office.

Teddy Guiao
Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

My thoughts

Nonresidents and residents should come to an agreement that shows proof that nonresident are needed here and that without them our lives would be affected. For example, this company provides a service to the community and that employer is the only one that is providing this service and if his nonresident workers leave the CNMI, this company would be not be able to function until his workers are replaced, which takes time to find.

All problems that can be corrected by regulatory agencies should not be used as testimony as it invites more negative thoughts from others that it applies to.

Changes require a lot of things to be moved to make a pleasant appearance. That is why nonresident should tell us, the people of CNMI, why they want to stay with us and become one of us, so that we can welcome them to stay here and help make it right.

Testimony that applies to just one person is not enough to proof you deserve to be welcomed.

Local residents should be given enough proof to welcome nonresidents and at least 99 percent of outcomes should be satisfying and to our liking. Other issues such as human rights, culture, and future safety should be carefully looked into, so that proof of fairness is provided among both parties.

A law should be in place to protect CNMI Chamorros and Carolinan assets and culture.

Those are some of my thoughts that I feel is fair. Do you?

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Congratulations

It was reported by the *Saipan Tribune* on June 23 that Capt. Jim Parrish has been appointed vice president of Cargo Air Bridge, a new air cargo carrier in our region. I have lost contact with Capt. Parrish and want to offer my congratulations to him. His considerable experience will certainly prove to be a valuable asset to the new airline. With this new appointment, I am sure he will spend much time discussing important matters with managers and operators at the Saipan airport. It is my hope during one of his many visits to the Saipan airport if he could drop off the headset he borrowed from me in May. The headset can be left with any agent of Freedom Air at the ticket counter or cargo area during their normal working hours. Please mark it "For Al." Again, please accept my sincere congratulations on your appointment to vice president of Cargo Air Bridge.

Al Dilks
Barrigade, Guam

Fair? NO!

So this week, Winnie Atalig wrote another letter to the editor, this time sharing her "thoughts on how the CNMI should decide on this nonresident issue." First of all, I would like to begin by checking our good friends at Merriam-Webster just what exactly the word "resident" means: "living in a place for some length of time." I know I have stressed this before, but apparently people still don't quite understand it so I will say it again: going by the dictionary definition of the word, most of these contract workers are *not* guests or nonresidents; they are actually residents of the CNMI.

Moving on to her first point, she says, "Nonresidents and residents should come to an agreement that proves that nonresidents are needed here and that without them our lives would be affected." To this I say: the residents of the CNMI do not need to come to any such agreement; the proof that non-indigenous residents are needed in the CNMI is all around us. Just take a step outside your house or work place, and look at the paved roads, the schools, the government buildings, the banks, and other local attractions: the non-indigenous residents of the CNMI whom you insist on calling "nonresidents" were the ones who, over the past few decades, were mostly responsible for their development.

In her next bullet she states, "All problems that can be corrected by a regulatory agency should not be used as testimony as it invites more negative thoughts." Just what, exactly, does she consider a problem that can be corrected by a regulatory agency? Last I checked, none of the local "regulatory agencies" were capable of correcting any of the labor and immigration related problems; wasn't that the main reason that the federal government stepped in and took over the system?

She then goes on to say, "Changes require a lot of things. That is why nonresidents should tell us, the people of the CNMI, why they want to stay with us and become one of us so that we can welcome them to stay here, our homeland. All of us must apologize for our mistakes and help make them right." While I am not completely against this one, because I do believe that we all must apologize for our mistakes and help make them right, I fail to understand why she needs all of the non-indigenous residents of the CNMI to declare their reasons for wanting to stay in the CNMI. They sought a better life and found it in the CNMI. I cannot speak with full-on certainty that this is true for the multitudes of non-indigenous CNMI residents, but I believe that for many, the reason is as simple as that. Is it so wrong to dream of a better life and to do whatever it takes to achieve that dream?

Next, she really sticks her neck out there by stating, "Testimony that applies to one person is not enough to prove you deserve to be welcomed here." To this, I have but two things to say: 1. It can be said that a testimony that applies to one person can most likely apply to many others as well, due to the general similarities in the plight of many non-indigenous CNMI resident workers. 2. Why do any of these non-indigenous CNMI resident workers have to prove that they deserve to be welcomed here? If tourists are welcomed to the islands without having to prove that they deserve a warm welcome, why should CNMI residents who have been working in our country for many years have to do so? If the case were that everyone in the CNMI had to prove that they deserve to be welcomed here, then could it not be said that the non-indigenous CNMI resident workers deserve to be welcomed here more than the unemployed members of the local indigenous population who live out their days taking advantage of SNAP and waiting for handouts?

I am skipping her next bullet, because all it does is show an example of her idea of how a non-indigenous CNMI resident worker can prove that he or she deserves to stay in the CNMI. Seeing as how I have already covered that particular topic in my previous paragraph, I will instead cover the bullet after that, in which she says, "90 percent of the residents agree to have nonresidents as residents." I hate to break it to her, but 100 percent of the residents agreed to have "nonresidents" as residents. They did this when they all agreed to have foreigners come in as labor units to fill the jobs that they (the local indigenous population) did not want to do. Because most of these foreigners stayed in the CNMI doing these jobs for years, they essentially became residents of the CNMI, and this was completely fine with the local indigenous population, as long as these workers kept doing their jobs.

Her next point is that "Local residents are given enough proof to welcome the nonresidents and at least 99 percent of the outcomes are to our liking. " I already went over the issue of needing to provide proof when it comes to welcoming the non-indigenous residents, so I won't repeat myself down here. What I do have to say to this is, what makes the local indigenous residents so special that "at least 99 percent of the outcomes" must be to their liking? The way it sounds to me, she's trying to say that the local indigenous population should have the final say in everything when it comes to the issue of these non-indigenous CNMI resident workers. Can someone please explain to me how this is fair?

She brings out a final point, saying that "Laws should be in place to protect CNMI Chamorro and Carolinian assets and culture." I agree with this 100 percent, but I do not see how it relates to the non-indigenous CNMI resident issue. I definitely believe that laws should have been in place a long time ago to protect and preserve the Chamorro and Carolinian language and culture. However, I fail to see a connection between that and the current issue. Is she trying to spread fear by implying that the non-indigenous CNMI resident workers pose a threat to the local Chamorro and Carolinian culture? This simply is not true, because these people have been around for decades, and to the best of my knowledge, they have not done anything to try to attack, alter, or remove the local Chamorro and Carolinian culture. Any changes to the local Chamorro and Carolinian culture are a result of cultural globalization and were not caused by the non-indigenous residents moving in.

She ends her letter saying that those were a few thoughts that she felt were fair, and asks if we felt so as well. I think you already know that my answer is an intense and resounding "No!" Thank you for your time, Marianas; I apreciate every second of it that you have spent reading my letter.

Kelvin Rodeo
Glendale, Calif.

Business

Obama: Halt '3-ring-circus' of debt-limit debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Decrying a "partisan three-ring circus" in the nation's capital, President Barack Obama criticized a newly minted Republican plan to avert an unprecedented government default Monday night and said congressional leaders must produce a compromise that can reach his desk before the Aug. 2 deadline.

"The American people may have voted for divided government, but they didn't vote for a dysfunctional government," the president said in a hastily arranged prime-time speech. He appealed to the public to contact lawmakers and demand "a balanced approach" to reducing federal deficits.

Obama stepped to the microphones a few hours after first Republicans, then Democrats drafted rival fallback legislation Monday to avert a potentially devastating government default in little more than a week.

Obama said the approach unveiled earlier in the day by House Speaker John Boehner would raise the nation's debt limit only long enough to push off the threat of default for six months. "In other words, it doesn't solve the problem," he said.

The president had scarcely completed his remarks when Boehner made an extraordinary rebuttal carried live on the nation's networks.

"The president has often said we need a `balanced' approach, which in Washington means we spend more, you pay more," the Ohio Republican said, speaking from a room just off the House floor.

"The sad truth is that the president wanted a blank check six months ago, and he wants a blank check today. That is just not going to happen."

Directly challenging the president, Boehner said there "is no stalemate in Congress."

He said the Republicans' newest legislation would clear the House, could clear the Senate and then would be sent to Obama for his signature.

The back-to-back televised speeches did little to suggest that a compromise was in the offing, and the next steps appeared to be votes in the House and Senate on the rival plans by mid-week.

Despite warnings to the contrary, U.S. financial markets have appeared to take the political maneuvering in stride—so far. Wall Street posted losses Monday but with no indication of panic among investors.

Without signed legislation by day's end on Aug. 2, the Treasury will be unable to pay all its bills, possibly triggering an unprecedented default that officials warn could badly harm a national economy struggling to recover from the worst recession in decades.

Obama wants legislation that will raise the nation's debt limit by at least $2.4 trillion in one vote, enough to avoid a recurrence of the acrimonious current struggle until after the 2012 elections.

Republicans want a two-step process that would require a second vote in the midst of a campaign for control of the White House and both houses of Congress.

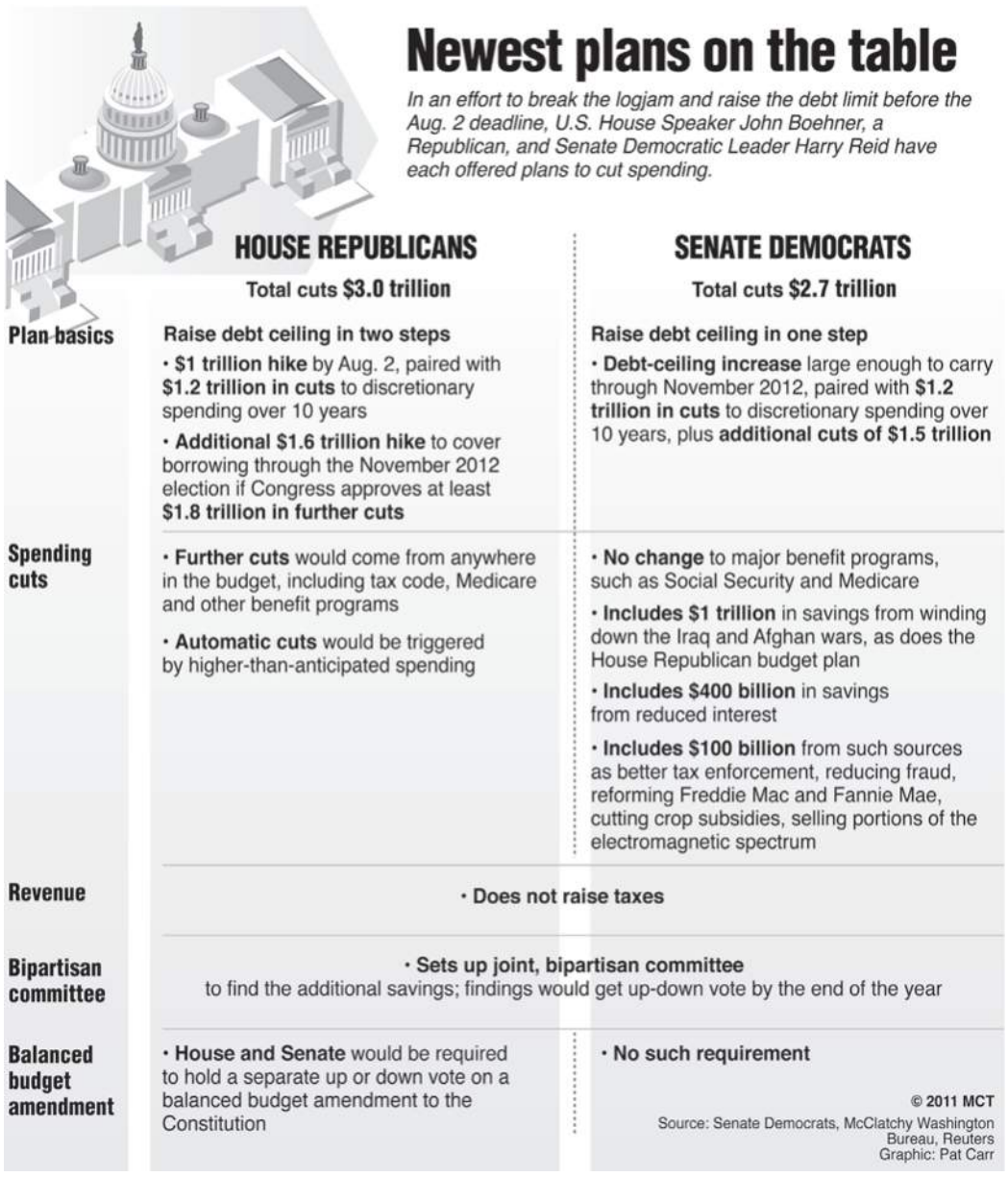
There were concessions from both sides embedded in the competing legislation, but they were largely obscured by the partisan rhetoric of the day.

A Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky urged Obama to shift his position rather than "veto the country into default."

And Reid jabbed at tea party-backed Republicans who make up a significant portion of the House GOP rank and file. The Nevada Democrat warned against allowing "these extremists" to dictate the country's course."

The measure Boehner and the GOP leadership drafted in the House called for spending cuts and an increase in the debt limit to tide the Treasury over until sometime next year. A second increase in borrowing authority would hinge on approval of additional spending cuts sometime during the election year.

Across the Capitol, Reid wrote legislation that drew the president's backing, praise from House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi—and criticism from Republicans.


Newest plans on the table
In an effort to break the logjam and raise the debt limit before the Aug. 2 deadline, U.S. House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, and Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid have each offered plans to cut spending.
HOUSE REPUBLICANS
Total cuts $3.0 trillion
SENATE DEMOCRATS
Total cuts $2.7 trillion
Plan basics
Raise debt ceiling in two steps
• $1 trillion hike by Aug. 2, paired with $1.2 trillion in cuts to discretionary spending over 10 years
• Additional $1.6 trillion hike to cover borrowing through the November 2012 election if Congress approves at least $1.8 trillion in further cuts
Raise debt ceiling in one step
• Debt-ceiling increase large enough to carry through November 2012, paired with $1.2 trillion in cuts to discretionary spending over 10 years, plus additional cuts of $1.5 trillion
Spending cuts
• Further cuts would come from anywhere in the budget, including tax code, Medicare and other benefit programs
• Automatic cuts would be triggered by higher-than-anticipated spending
• No change to major benefit programs, such as Social Security and Medicare
• Includes $1 trillion in savings from winding down the Iraq and Afghan wars, as does the House Republican budget plan
• Includes $400 billion in savings from reduced interest
• Includes $100 billion from such sources as better tax enforcement, reducing fraud, reforming Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, cutting crop subsidies, selling portions of the electromagnetic spectrum
Revenue
• Does not raise taxes
Bipartisan committee
• Sets up joint, bipartisan committee to find the additional savings; findings would get up-down vote by the end of the year
Balanced budget amendment
• House and Senate would be required to hold a separate up or down vote on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution
• No such requirement
© 2011 MCT
Source: Senate Democrats, McClatchy Washington Bureau, Reuters
Graphic: Pat Carr

AP-GfK Poll: Worries about debt rising once again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just last fall, Americans were feeling better about their personal finances. Now they're starting to worry more about how they'll pay off debts as they feel the nation's economic recovery wobbling.

With Congress deadlocked over how to deal with the national debt, household debt is causing stress for nearly half the country, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. One in five adults worries about debt most or all of the time. If they bought something on a credit card in the past month, more than a third say they won't pay it off when the bill comes.

The increased stress represents a reversal from last fall's AP-GfK poll, which found increasing confidence about personal finances. Debt-related stress is up 17 percent from that November survey, bumping such worries back up to levels seen in 2009 and in the spring of last year.

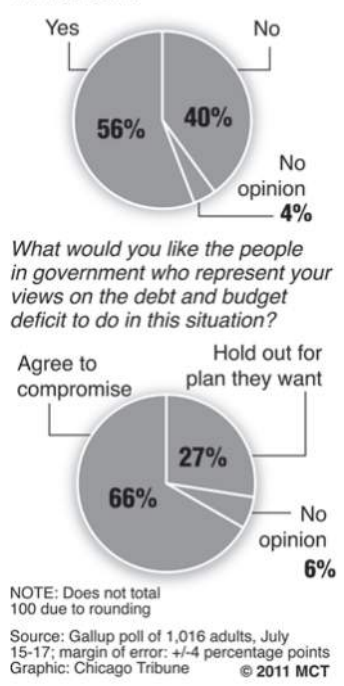
"It's not that our debt is huge. It's just hard to make it, month to month," said Theresa Telford, 45, a teacher's aide raising four kids with her husband, a sheriff's deputy. "It seems like everything is going up, but wages aren't going up."

Telford is also nervous because she's watched so many people lose their jobs in her small town of Davenport, Wash., and some of her friends still can't find work. Although the recession officially ended in June 2009, Americans display little faith in a recovery hobbled by grinding unemployment, slow economic growth, volatile gasoline and food prices and political feuding over how to stem the skyrocketing national debt. Consumer confidence fell to a seven-month low in June in the Conference Board's survey.

"We're starting to be fearful again that things may fall apart," said Paul J. Lavrakas, a research psychologist and AP consultant who analyzed the survey. Lavrakas and other researchers have found that debt can be bad for the health as well as the wallet. Those suffering the most anxiety over their debt are at risk for stress-related illnesses, such as ulcers, depression or heart attacks.

The poll found that households earning more than $75,000 had the biggest increase in debt-related stress since November. But stress levels continue to be highest within the most vulnerable groups: households that have lost jobs, people with family incomes below $20,000, single parents, and adults without high school diplomas. Married moms and adults under 30 years old showed significantly more anxiety than in the fall.

In all, more than 40 million Americans are feeling serious stress over the money they owe, whether it's for credit cards, mortgages, car loans or other debts, the poll indicates.


Views on the federal debt limit
If an agreement is not reached by the Aug. 2 deadline, do you think an economic crisis will or will not result?
Yes
56%
No
40%
No opinion
4%
What would you like the people in government who represent your views on the debt and budget deficit to do in this situation?
Agree to compromise
66%
Hold out for plan they want
27%
No opinion
6%
NOTE: Does not total 100 due to rounding
Source: Gallup poll of 1,016 adults, July 15-17; margin of error: +/-4 percentage points
Graphic: Chicago Tribune
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Post office looking to close offices to save money

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Postal Service is launching a study of thousands of local post offices for possible closure in an effort to save money. The cash-strapped agency, which lost $8 billion last year, scheduled a briefing for Tuesday at which it is expected to announce the action. Most of the approximately 3,600 offices that face reviews are in rural areas, but postal official say they are looking into alternate service, such as locating offices in local businesses, town halls or community centers. In those cases the so-called Village Post Office would replace one to be closed.

More airlines raise fares to grab tax savings

DALLAS (AP)—The great tax holiday of 2011 for air travelers is just about over. By Monday, most U.S. airlines had raised fares to reap the benefit of lower federal taxes on airline tickets. A few airlines that were passing the savings on to consumers changed their minds. Several federal taxes on airline tickets expired over the weekend after Congress failed to pass legislation to keep the Federal Aviation Administration running at full speed. Raising the fares allows the airlines to charge the consumer the same amount as before, while pocketing money previously collected for the government.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,592.80	1,337.43	2,842.80
-88.36	-7.59	-16.03
-0.70%	-0.56%	-0.56%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9161	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7898	Philippine Peso	42.2750
British Pound	0.6119	Indian Rupee	44.3250	Singapore Dollar	1.2045
Canadian Dollar	0.9435	Indonesian Rupiah	8,502.50	South Korean Won	1,045.345
Chinese Yuan	6.4420	Japanese Yen	78.0550	Swiss Franc	0.8013
Euro	0.6907	Malaysian Ringgit	2.9474	Taiwan Dollar	28.7910
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1505	Thailand Baht	29.4875

Nation

Navy prepares submarines for 1st female officers

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—For Ensign Peggy LeGrand, the biggest concern about serving on a submarine is not spending weeks at a time in tight quarters with an entirely male crew. What worries her is the scrutiny that comes with breaking one of the last gender barriers in the U.S. military.

"I have a feeling more people will be focused on us. Our mistakes and successes will be magnified more than they deserve," said LeGrand, a 25-year-old Naval Academy graduate from Amarillo, Texas.

LeGrand is among a small group of female officers who are training at sites including Groton, Conn., to join the elite submarine force beginning later this year. While the Navy says it is not treating them any differently from their male counterparts, officials have been working to prepare the submarine crews—and the sailors' wives—for one of the most dramatic changes in the 111-year history of the Navy's "silent service."

The initial class of 24 women will be divided among four submarines, where they will be outnumbered by men by a ratio of roughly 1 to 25. The enlisted ranks, which make up about 90 percent of a sub's 160-sailor crew, are not open to women although the Navy is exploring modifications to create separate bunks for men and women.

The female officers, many of them engineering graduates from Annapolis, are accustomed to being in the minority, and so far they say they hardly feel like outsiders. The nuclear power school that is part of their training, for example, has been open to women for years because the Navy in 1994 reversed a ban on females serving on its surface ships, including nuclear-powered vessels.

At the U.S. Navy's submarine school in Groton, where eight women were among dozens who recently completed the 10-week officer basic course, Ensign Kristin Lyles said the presence of the first class of females bound for submarine duty was not even remarked upon at this month's graduation ceremony.

"I understand the reason why. It was never explained but it was kind of implied that while we're going through training, as soon as they started calling attention to it in that way, it's singling us out," said Lyles, 23, of Fairfax Station, Va. "In my experience, I am no different from the guy sitting next to me in all my classes."

Skate rink DJ: Gunman 'smooth, cool' as he shot 5

DALLAS (AP)—Guests had just finished singing "Happy Birthday" to an 11-year-old boy when his father spoke to him briefly, then pulled out a gun and shot the child's mother, four of her relatives and himself, said a disc jockey who witnessed the shooting spree at a Texas roller rink.

Tan Do, 35, was "smooth, cool" as he shot his victims at close range, DJ Allen Tillotson told The Associated Press on Monday. He "knew exactly the people he wanted" to shoot and paused only to reload a weapon that had been hidden in his pants, Tillotson said.

"After he went for the wife, he went for the next lady, then a man, then a young lady," he said.

Do killed his estranged wife Trini Do, 29; two of her sisters, Lynn Ta, 16, and Michelle Ta, 28; her brother, Hien Ta, 21; and her sister-in-law, Thuy Nguyen, 25. Four others were wounded. At the end of the Saturday night rampage, Tran Do shot himself.

Tillotson said he was on his way to get a garbage can to clean up the DJ booth when the shooting began.

"I thought I was going to be dead, but Jesus had me," the 19-year-old said.

Police in suburban Grand Prairie have concluded the attack was planned.

"Domestic violence had been going on for quite some time, and he used the party to kill these people," department spokesman John Brimmer said.

Trini Do's aunt, Janice Tran, told the AP that Tan Do loved his wife but had trouble controlling his temper and the couple argued constantly, often about money. Tran said she and other relatives tried to help keep the peace, but Tan Do had "attitude problems" that were getting worse.

"Lately, we (gave) up because we did not do any good," said Tran, who lives in lives in Fort Smith, Ark.

Tran said she helped Trini Do, her parents and her siblings emigrate from Vietnam to western Arkansas in 1994. Michelle Ta lived in North Texas, and Lynn Ta, Hien Ta and Nguyen lived in Fort Smith, Tran said.

"It's very hard," Tran said. "Every time when I think about Trini and Michelle and Hien, it's hard."

Trini Do obtained a protective order last December against Tan Do but had it withdrawn earlier this year against a prosecutor's advice because she wanted to give him another chance. She also sought a divorce in 2008 but withdrew that filing months later after Tan Do "begged" her to come back, Tran said.

Trini Do said in her request for a protective order that there was a pattern of physical violence and threats, according to The Dallas Morning News and KTVT-TV in Dallas. They included an incident early last year in which she claimed Tan Do fired shots into the ceiling after threatening to shoot her.

Teen thought he would die in Alaska bear attack

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—As the grizzly furiously thrashed him about in the Alaska wilderness, all Sam Gottsegen could think about was what he would miss: college, traveling, life.

"I thought: `I'm going to die,'" the 17-year-old Denver resident said. "I thought, `This just can't be happening to me.'"

Then the bear left, only to return a moment later to continue mauling him and his other teenage friends. When the minute-long attack ended, four teens, including Gottsegen, were injured. Three others were unhurt.

The attack Saturday night in the Talkeetna Mountains north of Anchorage came as the group was nearing the end of a 30-day course to learn how to survive in the backcountry. The teens were at the stage of the course where they could try out their skills without adults around.

Authorities believe the bear was aggressive because it was with its cub. Gottsegen said no one ever saw a cub.

The group was hiking through bushes that got so thick they decided to wade through a river, walking in single file. Around a bend in the river, Joshua Berg, 17, of New City, N.Y., began yelling "Bear! Bear!"

The bear took him down first. The animal made angry, snarling noises as it attacked, Gottsegen told The Associated Press from his hospital bed in Anchorage, recounting the attack.

AP

Samuel Gottsegen, 17, recounts his experiences as one of the victims of a bear attack that occurred Saturday evening near Talkeenta, Alaska, as he recovers in an Anchorage hospital on Monday July 25, 2011.

It was so sudden. There was no time to pull out their bear deterrent spray and no one had a gun. Berg, badly wounded, called for someone to set off the personal locator beacon they carried for emergencies.

Gottsegen said everyone scattered and he ran, even though the students had been told to play dead.

His instincts wouldn't let him, though.

"When I heard that bear, when I saw it, it was all just like natural instincts," he said. "All night long I was thinking I should have played dead."

He kicked at the grizzly, to no avail.

Then the bear struck him, biting him on the head, lashing out at the teen's arms and chest, puncturing a lung and breaking two ribs. The attack on the group probably lasted less than a minute, he said.

After it was over, it started raining.

The teens set up a camp and tended to the injured, making good use of their survival skills. They plugged a deep wound in Gottsegen's torso with a plastic trash bag secured with an Ace bandage.

They also activated the beacon.

Patricia Allaire, the mother of another injured student, Noah Allaire, 16, of Albuquerque, N.M., said her son initially tried to activate the beacon, thinking the bear was gone, but then it struck again.

The bear thrashed the teen's head and back and slightly puncturing a lung. He was listed in good condition Monday at a hospital.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bail set for man accused in shooting near Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—A 42-year-old man accused of shooting seven people at a crowded nightclub near Seattle told police he followed his estranged wife and her new boyfriend there and opened fire because he "couldn't stand it," according to a probable-cause statement released Monday. Cesar Vielma-Chapparo, of Covington, Wash., was ordered held in King County Jail Monday in lieu of $1 million bond. Police in Auburn, Wash., say the jealous husband spent several minutes watching his wife, her two sisters and a male companion on the dance floor early Sunday before pulling out a handgun and firing.

Authorities: DNA may link rape suspect to Md. case

WASHINGTON (AP)—DNA evidence may link a man suspected in rape cases along the East Coast to another sexual assault in Maryland, and police there said they plan to file charges if lab tests confirm a match, authorities said Monday. Officer Kelly Lawson, a spokeswoman for the Greenbelt Police Department, told The Associated Press that a state police laboratory will conduct more testing to establish a conclusive match with Aaron Thomas. Authorities have said Thomas is linked by DNA testing to rapes and other attacks on 17 other women from Virginia to Connecticut. Lawson said initial testing showed a possible match between Thomas's DNA and evidence from a 1999 rape in the city.

Calif. law opens private aid to illegal students

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday signed a bill that will let students who entered the country illegally receive private financial aid at California's public colleges, even as debate continues over a more contentious bill that would allow access to public funding. The Democratic governor signed AB130 at Los Angeles City College. It is the first of a two-bill package referred to as the California Dream Act, which is aimed at getting financial aid for college students who entered the country illegally. The governor did not address the second bill in the package, which is more contentious because it would allow illegal immigrants to receive state-funded scholarships and financial aid. That bill, AB131, is in the state Senate.

Democrat David Wu won't seek re-election to House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. David Wu, facing an accusation of an unwanted sexual encounter with an 18-year-old woman and a request for an investigation by the House Ethics Committee, will not seek re-election next year and was pondering whether he would complete his term, a spokesman for the Oregon Democrat said Monday. In a letter sent Monday, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi requested the Ethics Committee investigation. The Oregonian, Wu's hometown newspaper, had reported that a California woman left a voicemail at Wu's office accusing him on an unwanted sexual encounter. Wu, 56, has said the encounter was consensual.

Shooter in Ark. soldier killing sentenced to life

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A man who killed one Arkansas soldier and wounded another—an act he called retribution for the deaths of Muslims abroad—took an unexpected plea deal Monday that abruptly ended his murder trial and spared him the death penalty. Abdulhakim Muhammad has repeatedly said he drove up to a Little Rock, Ark., recruiting station, drew an assault rifle and fired on the two uniformed soldiers. On Monday, Muhammad stood before a judge and once more admitted to the shooting that killed Pvt. William Andrew Long and wounded Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula. Wright then sentenced Muhammad to life in prison without parole for capital murder, with 11 more life sentences on the remaining charges and an additional 180 years in prison.

Asia

Aquino to China: Filipinos will defend territory

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Benigno Aquino III warned China in a major national speech Monday that the Philippines was ready to defend its Spratly Islands claims by acquiring more weapons and would elevate the territorial feuds to a U.N. tribunal.

In his State of the Nation Address to Congress, Aquino also announced a new chief anti-graft prosecutor and said his year-old government plans to file its first major corruption case this year against corrupt officials and their accomplices. He did not name the officials but vowed punishment for the guilty.

"We do not wish to increase tensions with anyone, but we must let the world know that we are ready to protect what is ours," Aquino said, drawing loud applause at the packed House of Representatives. The address also was televised live to the nation.

Aquino

Aquino's tough rhetoric echoed past criticisms of China over the Spratlys, so may have been meant to project him as a strong leader dealing firmly with an issue about which many Filipinos feel emotional, political analyst Ramon Casiple said.

"He was playing to a domestic audience. It's more of asserting to the people that he's a leader," Casiple said, adding that Aquino's reiterated position was unlikely to surprise China.

Aquino noted the efforts to bolster the military's capability, citing the recent purchase of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter and plans to acquire more patrol vessels, helicopters and weapons in deals he guaranteed would be aboveboard.

Aquino did not name China in his speech but clearly referred to it in laying a clear claim to the South China Sea feature called Recto Bank, also known as the Reed Bank, where the Philippines alleges China has intruded.

"There was a time when we couldn't appropriately respond to threats in our own backyard," Aquino said. "Now, our message to the world is clear: What is ours is ours; setting foot on Recto Bank is no different from setting foot on Recto Avenue."

Recto Avenue is a popular street in downtown Manila. The Philippines has said Chinese forces have repeatedly intruded into Manila-claimed areas in the sea since February, including at the Reed Bank. Filipino officials said two Chinese patrol boats threatened a Filipino oil exploration ship into leaving the Reed Bank, which they said was within its regular territorial waters and not part of the nearby Spratlys.

Two military planes were deployed during the March 2 incident, but the Chinese boats have left by the time the aircraft reached the Reed Bank, about 90 miles (150 kilometers) from the Philippine coast.

China calls Vatican 'unreasonable' in bishop spat

BEIJING (AP)—The Vatican was "extremely unreasonable and rude" in expressing anger at the ordinations of Catholic bishops in China's state-controlled church without the pope's approval, the Chinese government said Monday.

China's State Administration for Religious Affairs also said the government would continue to support and encourage the independent selection and consecration of bishops in China.

"The Vatican, on the grounds that the two bishops were ordained without Vatican approval, used the threat of so-called 'excommunication' and was extremely unreasonable and rude. It seriously hurt the Chinese Catholic church and pained priests and believers," the administration said in a statement.

China forced its Roman Catholics to cut ties with the Vatican in 1951. Worship is allowed only in state-backed churches, although millions of Chinese belong to unofficial congregations loyal to the pope.

Tensions between the nations have escalated as China named three bishops in the past eight months without the Holy See's approval. The Vatican insists the pope has sole right to appoint bishops, but Beijing's Communist leaders see that position as foreign interference.

The Vatican was furious over the ordinations of the Rev. Guo Jincai in Chengde city in November, the Rev. Paul Lei Shiyin in Sichuan province a few weeks ago, and the Rev. Joseph Huang Bingzhang in Shantou two weeks ago. It does not recognize them as bishops.

The Chinese government said it was willing to improve relations with the Vatican through dialogue, even as it reiterated it was committed to naming bishops independently.

"If the Vatican is sincere about improving relations, it should rescind the so-called 'excommunications,' and return to the correct path of dialogue," the statement said.

The issue of who should appoint bishops has proven a key obstacle to Pope Benedict XVI's goal of improving relations with China. An agreement that gave the Vatican an opportunity to give its tacit approval on new bishops broke down last year.

A top Vatican adviser, Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen, has called the current standoff a "war" and urged the Holy See to take a harder line.

In June, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which runs China's Catholic churches, said it had to urgently fill more than 40 empty bishops' seats because the vacancies were hurting the handling of church affairs.

NKorea food shortage worst in years despite farms

SUNAN, North Korea (AP)—It's an unlikely sight: hundreds of ostriches, a bird native to sunny Africa, squatting and squabbling in the morning chill on a sprawling farm in North Korea. Even stranger: In winter, some wear quilted vests.

Built on the heels of a 1990s famine, the ostrich farm was a bold, expensive investment that the state hoped would help feed its people and provide goods to export. Years later, ostrich meat is the specialty at some of Pyongyang's finest restaurants, but appears out of the reach of millions of hungry North Koreans.

The showcase farm is an idiosyncratic approach to one of the biggest issues confronting North Korea: food.

North Korea's food shortage has reached a crisis point this year, aid workers say, largely because of shocks to the agricultural sector, including torrential rains and the coldest winter in 60 years. Six million North Koreans are living "on a knife edge" and will go hungry without immediate food aid, the World Food Program said, calling in April for $224 million in emergency aid.

North Korean officials have made quiet pleas for help, citing rising global food prices, shortfalls in fertilizer and the winter freeze that killed their wheat harvest. In return, they agreed to strict monitoring conditions—a rare concession.

AP
In this Tuesday, April 17, 2011 photo, men check a plow and tractor in a field south of Pyongyang along the highway near the southern city of Kaesong, North Korea.

Donations, however, have not been flooding the nation considered a political pariah for its nuclear defiance and alleged human rights abuses. The European Union is pitching in $14.5 million (10 million euros), only enough to feed one-tenth of the hungry until the October harvest. The U.S. has not said whether it will provide aid.

Skeptics suspect officials are stockpiling food for gift baskets to be distributed during next year's celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of late President Kim Il Sung's birth. Others wonder whether the distribution of food can be monitored closely enough to ensure it gets to the hungry, not the military and power brokers in Pyongyang.

As the political debate continues, aid workers say shelves are bare and stomachs empty outside Pyongyang. And the question of how to feed the North Korean people remains unanswered.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Man gets suspended death penalty over tainted food

BEIJING (AP)—A report says a man has received a suspended death sentence for making and selling a chemical that makes pork leaner but is harmful to humans. Tainted pork is among a string of recent food scandals in China. The official Xinhua News Agency said a court in central Henan province sentenced Liu Xiang to death with a two-year reprieve for making and dealing in clenbuterol. The drug converts fat to muscle quickly in pigs, so it makes more profit for farmers. But China banns it because the drug can cause nausea, dizziness, headaches and heart palpitations in humans.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi meets senior gov't official

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with a senior Myanmar government official Monday for the first time since her release from house arrest, and he described their talks as a "first step" toward further cooperation in the military-dominated country. Suu Kyi met for 70 minutes with Labor and Social Welfare Minister Aung Kyi at a government guest house. Aung Kyi said without elaborating that the two discussed the rule of law and ways to eliminate misunderstandings in the interests of the good of the country and the people.

Thai Army helicopters grounded after 3rd crash

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's army has suspended flights of its 20 Bell-212 helicopters after three fatal crashes in nine days. Army Spokesman Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd said Monday the helicopters were ordered grounded so they could be examined after rotor failure was suspected as the cause of the latest crash Sunday that killed three soldiers and injured one. Two other Thai military helicopters have crashed in bad weather in just over a week. The first crash of a Huey chopper on July 16 killed five troops. On Tuesday, a Black Hawk helicopter sent to retrieve the bodies went down, killing eight soldiers and one television cameraman.

Australian police use pepper spray on kangaroo

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Two Australian police officers have used pepper spray to fight off a rogue kangaroo that had attacked an elderly woman in her backyard in an Outback town. Kangaroos rarely attack humans. Senior-Sgt. Stephen Perkins, head of police in the Queensland state town of Charleville, said Tuesday that he had never before heard of police using pepper spray against one - but that the tactic worked. The 94-year-old victim, Phyllis Johnson, was taken to a hospital for treatment for cuts and bruises after the attack Sunday. She told The Courier Mail newspaper that she tried unsuccessfully to fight the kangaroo off with a broom after it attacked her while she was hanging her laundry. Perkins said wildlife rangers trapped the kangaroo.

India's eunuchs demand access to welfare programs

KOLKATA, India (AP)—Eunuchs in India are demanding an end to discrimination against them and access to government welfare programs. The term eunuch is used in India to describe transvestites, transsexuals and others who identify themselves as neither male nor female but as a members of a third gender. Sobha Haldar, the secretary of a eunuch group, said around 3,000 eunuchs were meeting in Kolkata on Monday to draft a strategy to highlight the poverty, discrimination and sexual abuse faced by them. The eunuchs are demanding a quota of government jobs, health care and subsidized food. There are about 700,000 eunuchs living in India.

World

Norway rampage culprit held in isolation

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The self-described perpetrator of Norway's deadly bombing and shooting rampage was ordered held in solitary confinement Monday after calmly telling a court that two other cells of collaborators stood ready to join his murderous campaign.

Anders Behring Breivik, who has admitted bombing the capital and opening fire on a youth group retreat on an island resort, told authorities he expects to spend the rest of his life in prison. Declaring he wanted to save Europe from "Muslim domination," he entered a plea of not guilty that will guarantee him future court hearings and opportunities to address the public, even indirectly.

Breivik

Norway has been stunned by the attacks and riveted by Breivik's paranoid and disturbing writings. Hundreds thronged the courthouse, hoping to get their first glimpse of the man blamed for the deaths of 76 people—lowered Monday from 93. At one point, a car drove through the crowd and onlookers beat it with their fists, thinking Breivik might be inside.

Still tens of thousands of Norwegians also defied his rhetoric of hate to gather in central Oslo to mourn the victims and lay thousands of flowers around the city.

Police believe Breivik, 32, acted alone, despite his grand claims in a 1,500-page manifesto that he belonged to a modern group of crusaders. But they have not completely ruled out that he had accomplices.

Judge Kim Heger ordered Breivik held for eight weeks, including four in isolation, noting his reference to "two more cells within our organization."

In an interview published Monday, Breivik's estranged father said he wished his son had killed himself instead of unleashing his rage on innocent people.

The outpouring of emotion stood in stark contrast to what prosecutor Christian Hatlo described as Breivik's calm demeanor at the hearing, which was closed to the public over security concerns and to prevent a public airing of his extremist views. Hatlo said he "seemed unaffected by what has happened."

Meanwhile, police revealed they had dramatically overcounted the number of people slain in the shooting spree on Utoya island, lowering the death toll there from 86 to 68. Police spokesman Oystein Maeland said police and rescuers were focused on helping survivors and securing the area, and may have counted some bodies twice, though he did not immediately explain how the errors occurred.

Police also raised the toll from a bombing outside the government's headquarters in Oslo from seven to eight.

The sharp reduction in the death toll adds to a list of police missteps: They took 90 minutes to arrive at the island retreat after the first shot and survivors who called emergency services reported being told to stay off the lines unless they were calling about the Oslo bombings.

On Monday, the force revealed its entire Oslo helicopter crew had been sent on vacation and thus couldn't be mobilized to the scene.

By contrast, Breivik, who donned a police uniform as part of a ruse to draw campers to him, appeared in total control during the island rampage, police official Odd Reidar Humlegaard said.

UN races to get food to hungry Somali refugees

DOLO, Somalia (AP)—The U.N. will airlift emergency rations this week to parts of drought-ravaged Somalia that militants banned it from more than two years ago—a crisis intervention to keep hungry refugees from dying along what an official calls the "roads of death."

The foray into the famine zone is a desperate attempt to reach at least 175,000 of the 2.2 million Somalis whom aid workers have not yet been able to help.

Tens of thousands already have trekked to neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia, hoping to get aid in refugee camps.

Some—like Isaac Bulle and his family—have nearly nothing left.

"I hope we can cross to Ethiopia, but if we can get help here, we will stay here," said Bulle, who traveled with his two wives and 14 children for 25 days by donkey cart to reach this border town. "Our aim is just to get food. Not to leave the country."

Restarting the aid effort is a huge challenge for the World Food Program, whose workers were previously banned from the region by the al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab. Fourteen WFP employees have been killed in Somalia since 2008. New land mines have severed a key road to Dolo. A landing strip has fallen into disrepair. Old employees must be found and rehired.

The new feeding efforts in the four districts of southern Somalia near the border with Kenya and Ethiopia could begin by Thursday, slowing the flow of tens of thousands of people who have fled their homes in hope of reaching aid.

AP
A malnourished child from southern Somalia lies on a bed at the Banadir hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia, Monday, July 25, 2011.

The Bulle family is parked under the thorny branches of an acacia tree one river crossing from refugee camps in the Ethiopian town of Dollo Ado. They sleep on two tiny straw mats, although the youngest are bedding down on the rocky sand.

Bulle once had 50 cattle, some goats and grew sorghum. But the rains stopped two years ago, and food supplies stored in a cellar lasted the family a year. Then the animals began to die, forcing him to pack up.

When asked how much money he had, Bulle pulls out a thick wad of Somali shillings—bills that add up to the equivalent of only 80 cents. His only sign of wealth is a wristwatch.

His whole family survived the journey with no one getting hurt, killed or left behind.

U.N. worker Abdi Nur said that although Bulle was "clever" to pack just enough food to make it, he pointed to the farmer's young children gathered under the acacia tree.

"The kids are getting thinner. You can see," Nur said. "They are getting malnourished."

Nearby, hundreds of women with small children lined up over the weekend to register for the food distribution.

At a separate, less-organized site in the center of Dolo, a scrum of crying children and women in bright scarves pushed, pulled and shoved to register for this week's food distribution.

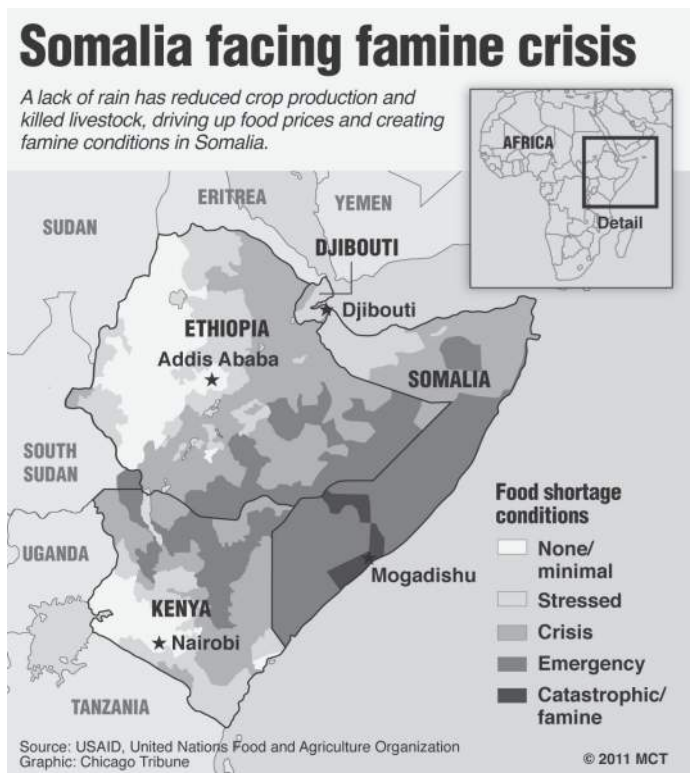
Dolo is the kind of sleepy African town where little children don't wear pants. Craggy sticks form fences between mud huts. Although a wide, muddy river flows here, the rocky and sandy soil supports little vegetation.

The U.N. says two regions of Somalia are suffering from famine and that 11 million people are in need of aid. But as of Aug. 1, the U.N. is set to declare all of southern Somalia—including Dolo—a famine zone.

In Rome, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said a coordination conference would be held Wednesday in Kenya.

The U.N. is pressing its efforts to gather $1.6 billion in aid in the next 12 months, with $300 million of that coming in the next three months.

Ertharin Cousin, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N.'s Rome-based food agencies, told reporters she didn't immediately know if the U.S. would boost its contribution on top of what it has already given.



SAfrican man wakes after 21 hours in morgue fridge

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A South African man awoke to find himself in a morgue fridge—nearly a day after his family thought he had died, a health official said Monday.

Health department spokesman Sizwe Kupelo said the man awoke Sunday afternoon, 21 hours after his family called in an undertaker who sent him to the morgue after an asthma attack.

Morgue owner Ayanda Maqolo said he sent his driver to collect the body shortly after the family reported the death. Maqolo said he thought the man was around 80 years old.

"When he got there, the driver examined the body, checked his pulse, looked for a heartbeat, but there was nothing," Maqolo told the Associated Press.

But a day after staff put the body into a locked refrigerated compartment, morgue workers heard someone shouting for help. They thought it was a ghost, the morgue owner said.

"I couldn't believe it!" Maqolo said. "I was also scared. But they are my employees and I had to show them I wasn't scared, so I called the police."

After police arrived, the group entered the morgue together.

"I was glad they had their firearms, in case something wanted to fight with us," Maqolo said.

He said the man was pale when they pulled him out.

"He asked, 'How did I get here?'" Maqolo said.

The health department said the man was then taken to a nearby hospital for observation and later discharged by doctors who deemed him stable.

Kupelo, the health department spokesman, urged South Africans to call on health officials to confirm that their relatives are really dead.

The man's family was informed that he was alive during a family meeting convened to make funeral arrangements. They're very happy to have him home, Maqolo said.

But Maqolo said he is still trying to recover from the traumatic experience.

"I couldn't sleep last night, I had nightmares," he said. "But today I'm much better."

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez set on 2012 re-election bid despite cancer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said he is certain he will pursue his re-election bid next year even as he struggles to overcome cancer. Chavez said in an interview published Monday in the government newspaper Correo del Orinoco that he hasn't "for an instant thought about withdrawing from the presidency." He said if there were physical reasons to step down he would do so but that he is pursuing his candidacy "with more strength than before." "I'm resolved to reach 2031," Chavez said. The leftist president has been in office since 1999 and is seeking another six-year term.

Mexican army finds 148-acre marijuana plantation

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican soldiers have found a series of marijuana fields covering 148 acres (60 hectares) in the northern state of Durango, the army said Monday. The army patrol also found 40 metric tons (44 U.S. tons) of harvested marijuana at the plantation in Mexico's "golden triangle" region, an area known for drug cultivation and trafficking. The Defense Department said in a statement that the plantation found Saturday included a processing lab and five camps, apparently for workers or guards at the fields. The planted and harvested plants together could have amounted to 100 tons of marijuana, which the Defense Department said was worth $1.55 billion pesos ($133 million).

Focus

Strauss-Kahn maid goes public; probe goes on privately

She's on a magazine cover and national television, telling her emotional and explicit story of being sexually attacked by Dominique Strauss-Kahn and pressing for him to be tried.

But while Nafissatou Diallo's interviews marked a dramatic turn in the public narrative surrounding the case, they may have far less impact on prosecutors' private investigation and deliberations about whether to keep pursuing her troubled case—a process that seems to be becoming, if anything, more complex as it heads toward an Aug. 1 court date.

The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment on Diallo's statements and remained mum about its plans Monday, as the hotel housekeeper's interviews aired on ABC's "Good Morning America" and appeared on newsstands in a Newsweek cover story. ABC News planned to broadcast more of its interview on "World News with Diane Sawyer" and "Nightline."

"I want justice. I want him to go to jail," Diallo told ABC News.

The former International Monetary Fund leader, who was considered a top contender for France's presidency, denies the attempted rape and other charges. His lawyers decried Diallo's interviews Monday as "a desperate distraction" from what prosecutors have said was her history of lies about her background and inconsistencies about her actions right after the alleged attack.

With her interviews, the 32-year-old Guinean immigrant (whose name is pronounced na-fee-SAH'-too dee-AH'-loh) ripped off the veil of privacy that authorities had kept around her. Prosecutors have provided her with housing and paid her daily expenses to keep her from the media maelstrom.

She defied prosecutors' conventional wisdom about accusers and alleged victims speaking publicly before a trial—it's generally seen as providing defense lawyers a lode of material to mine for contradictions and questions. Her move could widen a rift between prosecutors and their key witness, who hasn't spoken with them since late June while her lawyer called for a special prosecutor after the district attorney's office said it had developed doubts about her trustworthiness.

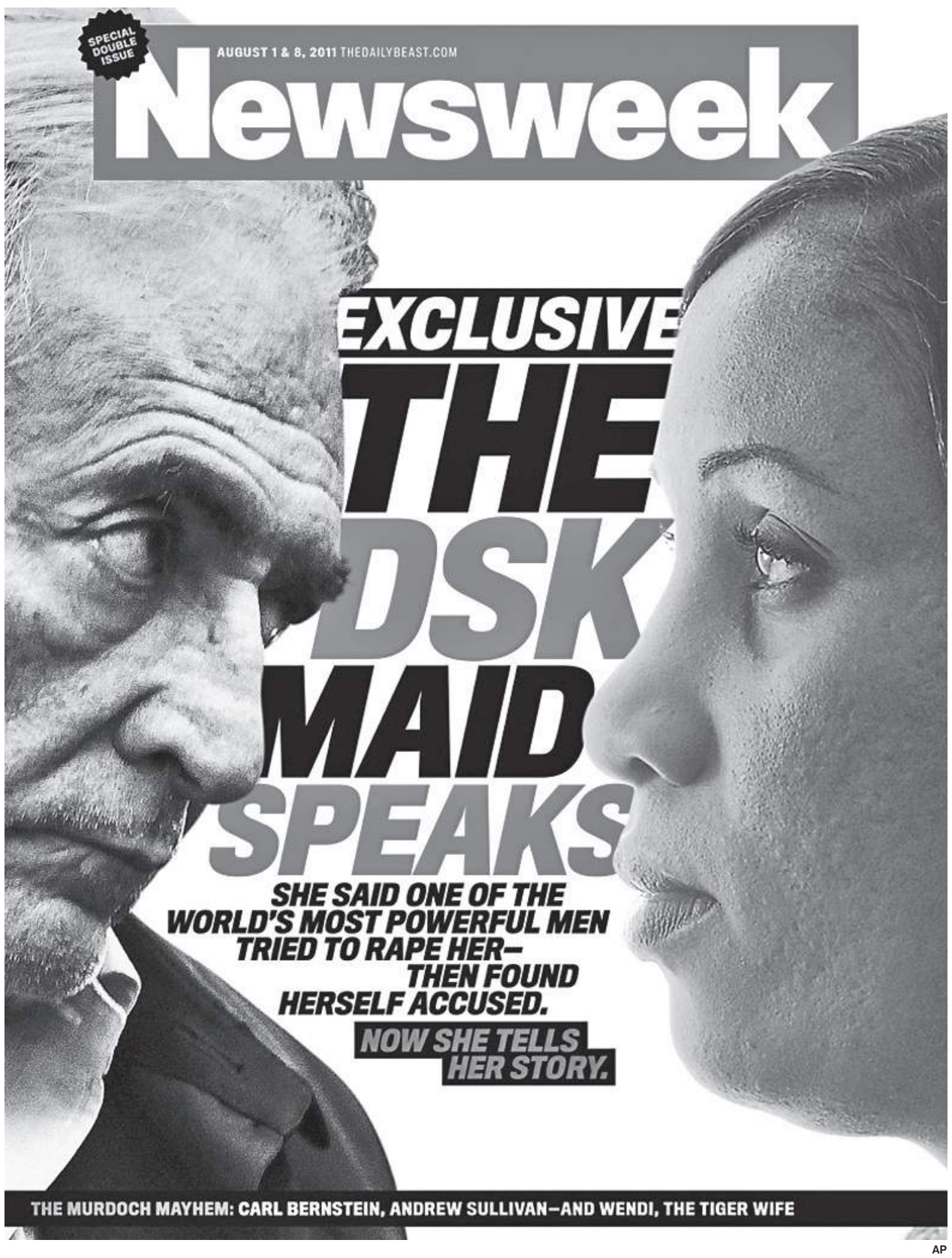
It's a daring and chancy strategic move for the maid and her lawyers, legal observers said.

"On the one hand, her lawyers felt they needed to up the ante because they feared the DA had lost his resolve," said Bradley Simon, a Manhattan criminal defense attorney and former federal prosecutor. "On the other hand, this has to make the DA's office quite unhappy. The more you talk, the more there's fodder for cross-examination and impeachment. That's a big problem."

The interviews also could make the prospect of pursuing the case less attractive to prosecutors simply because defense lawyers could paint her as a publicity-seeker, said Pace Law School professor and former Manhattan assistant prosecutor Bennett L. Gershman. Prosecutors could say, "she's already trying it in the court of public opinion," he said.

But however unhappy the DA's office or however insistent Diallo is that the case should go forward, her now-public account is only one among many elements prosecutors are considering as they determine what to do. Since they told a judge July 1 that her fabrications and inconsistencies had undermined the case, they have been reassessing evidence, analyzing the legal framework surrounding the case and gathering new information.

In one example, prosecutors met last week with a lawyer for a French writer who has accused Strauss-Kahn of trying to rape her in 2003, an allegation Strauss-Kahn denies. While French authorities explore her complaint, Manhattan prosecutors also have asked about speaking with the writer herself, Tristane Banon, a person familiar with the case has said.


SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE
AUGUST 1 & 8, 2011 THEDAILYBEAST.COM
Newsweek
EXCLUSIVE
THE DSK MAID SPEAKS
SHE SAID ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MEN TRIED TO RAPE HER— THEN FOUND HERSELF ACCUSED.
NOW SHE TELLS HER STORY.
THE MURDOCH MAYHEM: CARL BERNSTEIN, ANDREW SULLIVAN—AND WENDI, THE TIGER WIFE

AP

This image provided by Newsweek shows the cover of the magazine's issue featuring Nafissatou Diallo, the maid accusing Dominique Strauss-Kahn of assaulting her in a Manhattan hotel room.

> **"I want justice. I want him to go to jail."**

It's unclear whether that will happen, or when. But with prosecutors still gathering information now, the process might not be complete by Aug. 1.

It may serve DA Cyrus R. Vance Jr. to take his time, said Fordham University School of Law professor Ian Weinstein.

The district attorney "has to be deliberate and be seen as deliberate," Weinstein said. "What would be the motivation to end it quickly?"

For Strauss-Kahn, of course, there is some motivation to press for an answer on whether on prosecutors plan to pursue the case. But defendants who think a case against them is weak sometimes agree to give prosecutors more time to investigate, on the theory that the more they learn, the more likely they might be to drop the case.

In the meantime, defense lawyers Benjamin Brafman and William W. Taylor denounced Diallo Monday for waging "a media campaign intended to force a prosecutor to pursue charges against an innocent person, an innocent person from whom Ms. Diallo wants money."

ABC News said in a news release that Diallo's lawyer, Kenneth Thompson, had told the network Diallo plans to sue Strauss-Kahn. Thompson did not immediately respond to inquiries Monday from The Associated Press; he said in a statement Sunday that Strauss-Kahn's lawyers "have conducted an unprecedented smear campaign against the victim of a violent sexual attack."

Diallo was not paid in any way for her interview, according to her camp and ABC News; a Newsweek representative didn't immediately return a telephone call.

Adding details and her own voice to the basics authorities have given, Diallo said the former IMF leader grabbed and attacked her "like a crazy man" in his $3,000-a-night Manhattan hotel suite on May 14 as she implored him to stop. He pulled up her uniform dress, yanked down her pantyhose, forcefully grabbed her crotch and then gripped her head and forced her to perform oral sex, she said.

Before Sunday, Diallo's name had been reported by some French media outlets but not by major U.S. media, which generally protect the identities of people who say they've been sexually assaulted. The Associated Press does so unless the people agree to be named or identify themselves publicly, as Diallo and Banon have done.

In the interviews, Diallo addresses some of the inconsistencies that already have rocked the case.

She testified to a grand jury that after the alleged attack, she cowered in a hallway and watched Strauss-Kahn leave, then told a supervisor. Prosecutors said earlier this month that she later told them she actually had gone on cleaning rooms before consulting her boss. Diallo told Newsweek she was disoriented and went into the rooms briefly before a supervisor appeared and asked why she was upset, but the maid denied changing her account.

Diallo also lied about her life story, including by telling prosecutors an emotional story of being gang-raped in her homeland, they said. She told Newsweek she was raped by two soldiers but acknowledged she had embellished her life story on her 2003 asylum application; prosecutors have said she told them she repeated the lies to them to be consistent. ***(AP)***

Campus Life

S. Korean students ditch paper for digital books

BY SAM KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Friday, July 15, 2011 photo, South Korean student Kim Jae-min, center, and his classmates use tablet PCs to study in a class at Sosu Elementary School in Gwesan, South Korea.

GOESAN, South Korea (AP)—Outside the classroom a hot summer day beckons, but fourth-grade teacher Yeon Eun-jung's students are glued to their tablet PCs as they watch an animated boy and a girl squabble about whether water becomes heavier when frozen.

The small scene in this rural town is part of something big: South Korea is taking a $2 billion gamble that its students are ready to ditch paper textbooks in favor of tablet PCs as part of a vast digital scholastic network.

France, Singapore, Japan and others are racing to create classrooms where touch-screens provide instant access to millions of pieces of information. But South Korea—Asia's fourth-largest economy—believes it enjoys an advantage over these countries, with kids who are considered the world's savviest navigators of the digital universe.

A 2009 study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a Paris-headquartered grouping of wealthy nations, found 15-year-olds in South Korea scored highest in their ability to absorb information from digital devices, beating runners-up New Zealand and Australia by a large margin.

At Sosu Elementary School in Goesan, principal Jo Yong-deuk speaks of a future in which his students interact in virtual reality with Ludwig van Beethoven and Abraham Lincoln. In the classroom, the children scribble answers in their tablet PCs with touchscreen pens as they watch the video clip explaining the scientific properties of frozen water.

"I liked this chapter, but my favorite clip is one where they show how flowers blossom and trees bear fruit in spring," 11-year-old Jeong Ho-seok said with a wide grin.

More than 60 primary, middle and high schools are now using digital textbooks as part of their curriculum, according to the state-run Korea Education and Research Information Service, which provides technical support for the program. Seoul believes it can finish the $2.1 billion program to build a single computer network packed with high-quality digital content by 2015. Replacing textbooks with tablet PCs will account for a quarter of that budget.

According to South Korean officials, France is handing out tablets in the Correze region and is pushing to expand digital material, while Japan began distributing tablet PCs in a primary school last year under a pilot program. Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore said on its website that Singapore began adopting tablet PCs in 2004.

But Kim Doo-yeon, a South Korean official leading the project, said his country will have no trouble competing.

South Korea is one of the most wired places on earth. More than 80 percent of South Korean households have broadband access to the Internet, according to the statistical office here. U.S. Web hosting company Akamai said earlier this year that South Korea enjoys the fastest Internet connection in the world. South Korea also ranks first in wireless broadband subscriptions, according to an OECD release last month.

Lee Sang-hyeob, a student at Sosu Elementary School, spends a lot of time at home playing online games and chatting with schoolmates. Another Sosu student, Jang Woo-dam, often surfs her school's website to see messages from friends.

The 2009 OECD study says there's a positive relationship between students' use of computers at home for leisure and their digital navigation skills. "Proficient digital readers tend to know how to navigate effectively and efficiently," the study said.

The study said students who read online more frequently also read a greater variety of print material and report higher enjoyment of reading itself.

Another telling example of the influence of the Internet on this nation of 50 million is the number of so-called PC rooms, or Internet cafes, which stood at 15,000 as of December last year, according to the PC room business association.

PC rooms, which usually operate around the clock, have long been the breeding ground for South Korea's so-called professional e-gamers, whose popularity has given birth to an industry dedicated to airing their matches and promoting high-tech gadgets through them.

Enchanted with games, Jeong Yu-jin, 16, has been teaching himself programming since he was a child and is now developing a game that warns of the consequences of global warming as a player clears stages filled with challenges like angry polar bears and crumbling glaciers.

"Technology is a way for me to turn my imagination into a reality," said the student at Korea Digital Media High School, one of many technology-oriented schools that have proliferated as electronics giants like Samsung have thrived.

Kim, the South Korean official leading the tablet PC project, said the country envisions a digital scholastic network for students to go beyond digital textbooks and national boundaries.

"In the future, all our students will be connected to a single computer network that allows them to also learn from teachers in other countries," Kim said.

Loaded with video, animation, photos, voices, songs and Web documents created by experts and by teachers and students, digital textbooks allow students to enjoy a custom-made learning experience, Kim said. Kids who fall behind in a regular curriculum can start from levels they feel comfortable with.

Young North Korean defectors struggling to adapt to South Korea could also benefit from having tablet PCs. More than 21,000 North Koreans, including children, have come to South Korea since the two countries' 1950-53 war. Many choose to study in special schools to catch up before they attend regular ones.

Those who study digital technology and education have been generally positive about introducing digital textbooks, but there have also been warnings that Internet addiction may deepen among South Korea's teenagers.

The number of students addicted to the Internet amounted to 782,000, or 12 percent of the total student population, the Ministry of Public Administration and Security said last year. The government, worried by the problem, plans to increase the number of counselors dealing with Internet addiction to 5,500 next year.

"What is essential in digital learning is to promote as much interaction between teachers and students as possible, rather than just leaving the students to themselves," said Kwon Jung-eun, a senior researcher at the state-run National Information Society Agency.

Yale raises nearly $4B in campaign

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP)—Yale University has raised $3.88 billion amid tough economic times, finishing the largest fundraising campaign in its history that will help pay for its biggest expansion in decades, extend its international reach and make its school of music tuition free.

The campaign exceeded its goal of $3.5 billion. More than 110,000 alumni, parents, friends, corporations and foundations contributed.

Yale began the campaign in 2006 with a nucleus fund of $1.147 billion, and by 2008 giving had reached $2.3 billion. While the global economic crisis brought a decline in giving for 2009 and 2010, contributions totaling more than $857 million in the final year.

"Despite challenges that included a historic worldwide recession, donors at every level of giving rallied behind the university's goals and took us to an amazing final total," said Inge T. Reichenbach, vice president for development.

Don Fellows, president and chief executive officer of Marts & Lundy, a New Jersey-based consulting firm that works with universities, said he was not surprised Yale was successful. He said universities have been very effective at fundraising, understanding their donors and articulating how they can change the world by making contributions.

"This is consistent with what we've seen at other, particularly the most mature universities," said Fellows, whose firm was not involved in the campaign but has done work for Yale in the past. "It's been incredibly successful through some of the toughest times we've ever seen."

The University of Michigan reported raising more than $3 billion two years ago.

The University of Pennsylvania is on track to raise $3.5 billion, said John Glier, chief executive officer of Grenzebach Glier, a Chicago-based consulting firm that has advised Yale and other universities.

High suspension rate fails to improve school performance in study

By CHRISTY HOPPE
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

AUSTIN, Texas—The days of being sent to the principal or getting a note home have given way to a disciplinary system in which almost 60 percent of high school students are suspended or expelled at some point, a comprehensive review of Texas students shows.

The new study by the Council of State Governments alarms state leaders, who question whether so many teens should be swept into the disciplinary system, whether for hours or days.

The analysis, unique in that it followed almost 1 million students over six years from grades 7 through 12, found that zero-tolerance factors didn't necessarily improve schools. Researchers instead found schools that suspended and expelled students at high rates did no better on test scores, graduation rates and other performance measures than other schools with similar student bodies.

In addition, the study found that black students—even considering socio-economic and dozens of other variables, including how many minority teachers worked at a particular campus—were far more likely to be disciplined than otherwise identical white or Hispanic students.

In the six years of the study, 75 percent of black students were subjected to disciplinary action, compared to 65 percent of Hispanics and 47 percent of whites.

The new study showed that of the 929,000 students followed, 553,000 were disciplined. The average had more than four disciplinary actions over their high school careers, for a cumulative 4.9 million infractions. Of those, 92 percent involved violations of schools' own codes of conduct, under which they have discretion over how strictly to punish problems. Their responses have varied widely, even within school districts.

Less than 3 percent of the infractions were for major incidents that triggered mandatory expulsion under state law.

Researchers followed students, finding that the more a student was disciplined, the more likely they were to end up in the juvenile justice system. And of all the students who were disciplined, 31 percent had to repeat a grade at least once.

Life & Style

Winehouse autopsy inconclusive; funeral Tuesday

LONDON (AP)—An autopsy on singer Amy Winehouse Monday failed to determine what killed the 27-year-old star, leaving fans and family with a weeks-long wait for the results of toxicology tests. Her funeral will be held Tuesday.

A family spokesman said the private funeral "for family and close friends" would be held at an undisclosed time and place.

Winehouse's devastated parents visited mourners outside her north London home to thank them for their support.

The singer, who had struggled with drug and alcohol abuse for years, was found dead Saturday at home by a member of her security team, who called an ambulance. It arrived too late to save her.

The Metropolitan Police said Monday that a forensic post mortem "did not establish a formal cause of death and we await the results of further toxicology tests." Those are expected to take two to four weeks.

An inquest into the singer's death was opened and adjourned at London's St. Pancras Coroner's Court. During the two-minute hearing, an official read out the name, birth date and address of Winehouse, described as "a divorced lady living at Camden Square NW1."

"She was a singer songwriter at the time of her death and was identified by her family here at St. Pancras this morning," said coroner's officer Sharon Duff.

Duff said the scene of Winehouse's death "was investigated by police and determined non-suspicious."

In Britain, inquests are held to establish the facts whenever someone dies violently or in unexplained circumstances. Assistant Deputy Coroner Suzanne Greenaway said Winehouse's inquest would resume on Oct. 26.

AP

Mitch Winehouse, 2nd left blue shirt, Amy Winehouse 's father, accompanied by Janis, Amy's mother, right, and other friends look at flowers placed by mourners in Camden Square outside the house of Amy Winehouse following her death, in Camden, northern London, Monday July 25, 2011.

The singer's father, mother and brother visited her home on Monday, stopping to inspect the mounds of bouquets, candles and handwritten notes across the road from the Victorian house.

Her father, Mitch Winehouse, thanked mourners for their tributes.

"I can't tell you what this means to us—it really is making this a lot easier for us," he said.

"We're devastated and I'm speechless but thanks for coming."

The singer's mother, Janis, was in tears as she examined the flowers, candles, vodka bottles, flags, drawings and handwritten cards left by neighbors, fans and well-wishers. Many of the offerings expressed the same sentiment: "What a waste."

"I'll remember her as a troubled soul," said fan Ethna Rouse, who brought her 4-year-old son to leave a bouquet. "Like many artists in the world—they are tortured souls, and that's where the talent comes from."

The singer had battled her demons in public, too often making headlines for erratic behavior, destructive relationships and abortive performances.

But she was remembered fondly by her neighbors in Camden, the creative but gritty neighborhood where she lived on and off for years.

"She was too young to die and too talented, and too beautiful," said Peggy Conlon, landlady of the Dublin Castle pub, where Winehouse occasionally stopped for a drink. "She's sorely missed by everyone, not one person had a bad word to say about that kid."

Last month, Winehouse canceled her European comeback tour after she swayed and slurred her way through barely recognizable songs in her first show in the Serbian capital, Belgrade. Booed and jeered off stage, she flew home and her management said she would take time off to recover.

Her last public appearance came three days before her death, when she briefly joined her goddaughter, singer Dionne Bromfield, on stage at The Roundhouse in Camden, near her home.

Actor Russell Brand, a former drug addict, wrote a lengthy tribute in which he urged the media and public to change the way addiction is perceived—"not as a crime or a romantic affectation but as a disease that will kill."

"Winehouse and I shared an affliction, the disease of addiction," he wrote. "Addiction is a serious disease; it will end with jail, mental institutions or death."

Winehouse released only two albums in her lifetime—2003's "Frank" and the chart-topping "Back to Black" in 2006. Both shot up the music charts as fans bought them to remember her by.

Gennaro Castaldo of music chain HMV said "Back to Black" was the retailer's best-selling album. It was also iTunes' No. 1 album in more than a dozen countries including the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and Canada.

Celebrity fans continued to pay tribute to an artist whose appeal crossed genres and generations.

On Twitter, singer George Michael called her "the most soulful vocalist this country has ever seen."

"I hope she is at peace now," he added.

Soul singer Adele—one of a generation of British chanteuses whose success Winehouse helped make possible—said Winehouse "paved the way for artists like me and made people excited about British music again whilst being fearlessly hilarious and blase about the whole thing."

"Although I'm incredibly sad about Amy passing I'm also reminded of how immensely proud of her I am as well, and grateful to be inspired by her," Adele wrote on her website.

Winehouse lived, died in bohemian Camden

LONDON (AP)—Tourists mingled Monday outside the grungy Hawley Arms pub near London's open air Camden Market, peering inside as if it were hallowed ground.

"Was that her pub?" one excitedly asked. His friends assured him that the late Amy Winehouse had indeed been a frequent patron.

The only obvious link to Winehouse was a sign outside reading "Back to Black" in reference to her breakthrough 2006 album, which made Winehouse an international star and turned her into the unofficial patron saint of Camden Town, a drug-ridden mishmash of hard-drinking pubs, tattoo parlors, cheap food stalls, and vendors selling everything from second-hand designer jackets to tacky posters.

Camden has been a bohemian touchstone in London for several decades. In classic film "Withnail and I" actor Richard E. Grant embarked on an orgy of drink and drugs here, Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren's funeral procession went through the center of town, and famous rockers are sometimes seen slipping their way through the usually jammed streets.

The appeal is not that hard to define: It's dirty, trendy, edgy—and tremendously popular. And the young say they can find everything they want: Loud music, food, drink and, of course, drugs.

The neighborhood's main drag has more tattoo and body piercing shops per block than any other London city stretch. Its restaurants are known for their fanciful facade decorations—a favorite with the waves of foreign visitors who like to be photographed in front of various landmarks.

A few blocks away is The Roundhouse, a treasured concert venue where the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix and others have played. Winehouse made an impromptu appearance onstage just days before her death but was not well enough to sing.

It has been common in recent years for Winehouse "wannabes" to come to Camden wearing ripped clothes and their hair piled on top of their heads in a rough approximation of Winehouse's trademark beehive. Many hoping to catch a glimpse of their idol, a one-time fixture who had somewhat stepped out of the limelight in the years before her death as she tried to manage her drinking and drug abuse.

Camden does, however, feature the lovely Regents Canal, a waterway used by the familiar narrowboats that have long been part of English life. But the area has become blighted with litter and the canal, which opened in 1820, is often fouled. Strollers are routinely offered marijuana and harder drugs.

Police patrol the area on foot but drug sales continue. Laws on public drinking are also openly flaunted, and hundreds of beer bottles usually end up in the canal after long summer nights of partying.

The canal is lined with ethnic food stalls—free samples of grilled meat are often offered to passers-by—but the Mexican, Asian and Indian food all tends to taste alike. The market is to fine dining what dial-a-pizza is to Italy. Food kept under heat lamps all day long is then sold for reduced prices at the end of the day.

Cheaply made T-shirts are another specialty, with some stalls Monday offering black shirts with images of Winehouse singing for 5 pounds ($8).

Winehouse lived in Camden on and off during her meteoric rise, often drinking in Camden's crowded pubs and sometimes brawling outside, but she left the area a few years ago, reportedly in an attempt to get away from the constant temptation.

She had recently moved back to Camden, but did not return to her old apartment in the crowded area near the Hawley Arms pub, preferring to live in the much more posh Camden Square area, where imposing early Victorian villas sell for more than 1 million pounds.

That is where her body was found Saturday.

Story of trapped Chilean miners set for big screen

NEW YORK (AP)—The story of the Chilean miners who were trapped underground for more than two months is on its way to the big screen.

The 33 miners have sold the rights to their story to producer Mike Medavoy, the producer and the miners' representatives announced Monday. The planned film will recount the remarkable plight of the miners who were trapped for 69 days after the San Jose mine they were working in collapsed near Copiapo, Chile.

The veteran producer Medavoy has produced films including "Shutter Island" and "Black Swan." "Motorcycle Diaries" screenwriter Jose Rivera is set to write the script.

"We'll dig deep into their stories," Medavoy said in an interview. "We're not just going to tell a story about 33 miners in a hole."

Miner Juan Andrew Illanes called the project "the only official and authorized film about what we lived in the San Jose mine." The miners are collectively represented by William Morris Endeavor Entertainment.

In an interview, Miner Omar Reygadas, 56, said he hopes the film will preserve the hopeful message of the miners' experience.

"We want the film to get into people's spirits," Reygadas said. "I want it to emphasize the spiritual aspects, to show respect between people, teamwork and, more than anything, faith. I think that what happened in this mine was a miracle of life, and that's what I want it to show."

The film will face obvious dramatic hurdles in that its conclusion—that all the miners were safely rescued—is already widely known. That much of their trial was in utter darkness, too, wouldn't seem to easily lend itself to a cinematic rendering.

Medavoy, who established Phoenix Pictures after years as a top executive at TriStar Pictures, Orion Pictures and elsewhere, acknowledged that he was initially apprehensive about taking on the film because of the well-known ending. But he said the miners' story reminded him of John Ford's "How Green Was My Valley," the 1941 film about life in a Welsh mining town.

"I think of it as all of our lives, just coincidence and chance," Medavoy said. "There's so much drama, and when the drama kicks in, it's really fascinating. And all the drama that plays out above ground can be interspersed."

It's also a personal journey for Medavoy, who lived in Chile for ten years as a child. He calls the film a chance to "explore from whence I came."

"I know the Chilean people," he says. "I know the sense of humor they have, of which they have a lot of. I know the dignity and respect that they like in people. I know how open they are."

$1M-plus Chinese cups tops for 'Antiques Roadshow'

NEW YORK (AP)—An Oklahoma man has more than a million reasons to be happy he brought his collection of Chinese rhinoceros horned cups to be appraised by experts with the PBS series "Antiques Roadshow."

PBS says the collection was judged Saturday by Asian art expert Lark Mason at a taping in Tulsa, Okla., to be worth $1 million to $1.5 million. That's easily the most valuable item brought in for appraisal in the history of "Antiques Roadshow," which will air its 16th season next year.

In this Saturday, July 23, 2011 photo, Asian art expert and veteran "Antiques Roadshow" appraiser Lark Mason poses with a collection of Chinese rhinoceros horned cups in Tulsa, Okla. AP

Show spokeswoman Judy Matthews says the collection owner was surprised by the appraisal and quipped, "I guess I won't have to rely on Social Security anymore." The owner wishes to remain anonymous.

Matthews says there's a hot market now for Chinese art.

Harry Potter to end Indonesia's Hollywood drought

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Hollywood blockbusters will soon return to Indonesian screens, with the final "Harry Potter" film leading the way to end a five-month drought caused by a standoff over the country's tax on imported movies, an official said Monday.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows—Part 2" is being imported by a newly established local company and will be released before Ramadan, the Islamic fasting month that begins Aug. 1, said Djonny Sjafruddin, head of the Indonesian Cinema Companies Union. He declined to give an exact release date.

"All things such as censorship and subtitles have already been finished," Sjafruddin said. "We need some 90 copies and they are now under process."

He added that "Transformers 3" and "Kung Fu Panda 2" would also be released during the next several weeks.

The announcement signals relief for moviegoers forced for months to make do with local productions and second-tier foreign releases because of the protracted dispute between studios, film importers and the government.

In February, six major Hollywood studios withdrew films from Indonesia, a Muslim-majority nation of 237 million people, in opposition to a new levy on imported movies that was meant to protect local filmmakers.

Last month the government announced a revised tax it said would bring back Hollywood movies, but their return had been blocked by another dispute.

Jackson tribute concert planned in Wales in Oct.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's mom and four of his siblings announced plans Monday for a tribute concert later this year in Wales, but two of the late singer's brothers say they oppose the timing of the show.

The pop singer's mother, Katherine Jackson, and siblings La Toya Jackson, Marlon Jackson, Jackie Jackson and Tito Jackson said the show is scheduled for Oct. 8 at Millennium Stadium but did not reveal any performers.

Within hours of their announcement of "Michael Forever—The Tribute Concert" at a Beverly Hills hotel, brothers Jermaine Jackson and Randy Jackson released a statement that said they opposed the show because it will be held during the trial of a doctor charged in their brother's death.

"While we wholeheartedly support the spirit of a tribute that honors our brother, we find it impossible to support an event that is due to take place during the criminal trial surrounding Michael's death," the brothers wrote in a statement posted on each of their Twitter accounts.

Jury selection in the involuntary manslaughter trial of Dr. Conrad Murray is scheduled to begin on Sept. 8, with opening statements later in the month. The case is expected to last four to six weeks.

"There will come a time and place for an amazing and deserving tribute to Michael," the brothers' statement read. "But we feel that the most important tribute we can give to our brother at this time is to seek justice in his name."

NY socialite faces 2nd Conn. shoplifting charge

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A New York socialite charged last month with stealing an $11,000 fur scarf from a Connecticut store has been charged with stealing a second pricey scarf from the same shop.

Beata Boman surrendered Sunday on a fifth-degree larceny charge accusing her of stealing a $725 Loro Piana scarf from Richards of Greenwich. She was released on $500 bond and is due back in court Aug. 1.

Store personnel discovered the theft when they reviewed surveillance cameras after her earlier arrest on a felony charge of first-degree larceny, police said.

Boman, a self-described former model and fashion designer who was born in Poland, made news in 2008 when she was photographed with Prince Andrew on the southern French resort town of St. Tropez.

Attorney Mark Sherman said the 38-year-old Boman hasn't been the same since she had brain surgery and is seeking intensive therapy. He described her as ashamed and remorseful.

Sherman said after her original arrest that she was distracted in the store because she was on the phone. The new charge, he said, "definitely changes the dynamics of our defense."

Sherman said he would still apply for a program for first-time offenders that calls for probation and dropping charges if the participant is not arrested again.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Reporter who broke Murdoch scandal gets book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The newspaper reporter who spent years investigating phone hacking claims in Rupert Murdoch's media empire has won a book deal. The Guardian reporter Nick Davies has been signed to write an authoritative account of the News Corp. scandal for Faber and Faber Inc. Financial compensation wasn't disclosed. The book, to be titled "Hack Attack: How the Truth Caught up with the World's Most Powerful Man," will be published in the fall of 2012. Davies previously wrote "Flat Earth News." The scandal exploded earlier this month with revelations that journalists at the News of the World tabloid hacked the phone of a 13-year-old murder victim while police were still searching for her. The 168-year-old paper was closed. Ten people have been arrested so far.

'Zorba' director Cacoyannis dies at 89

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Michael Cacoyannis, the Cyprus born-filmmaker and screenwriter who directed the 1964 film classic "Zorba the Greek," starring Anthony Quinn, has died at an Athens hospital. He was 89. Officials at a state-run hospital said Cacoyannis died early Monday of complications from a heart attack and chronic respiratory problems. Cacoyannis won multiple awards and worked with such well-known actors as Melina Mercouri, Irene Papas, Katharine Hepburn, Vanessa Redgrave, and Candice Bergen. But he was best known internationally for the Academy Award-winning "Zorba the Greek"—the 1964 adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis' novel—joining up with composer Mikis Theodorakis, whose score for the movie remains an enduring Greek anthem.

Latin Grammy-winner named Peru's culture minister

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru's president-elect has chosen acclaimed singer Susana Baca as culture minister. Baca becomes the Andean nation's first black minister of government since independence from Spain in 1821. Baca is the best-known voice of the rich musical and dance tradition of Afro-Peruvians, descendants of slaves brought in colonial times. The 67-year-old Baca won a Latin Grammy in 2002 for the album "Lamento Negro," which she'd recorded nearly two decades earlier in Cuba. President-elect Ollanta Humala also named his education minister on Monday, the sociologist Patricia Salas.

Ex-Calif. governor tweets son 'doing much better'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says his son's condition is improving after a body-boarding accident at a Malibu beach. Schwarzenegger tweeted his appreciation to well-wishers Monday night. In his post, Schwarzenegger said "Thanks for all your support for Christopher. It means a lot to me & to him. He's doing much better & we'll have him back at full speed soon." The 13-year-old son of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver suffered a collapsed lung and broken bones in the accident on July 17. The couple are separated and in the midst of a divorce.

Neighborhood shrew should be object of pity, not scorn

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: There's a venomous old woman who roams through our neighborhood looking for victims to embarrass, humiliate or annoy. She told a neighbor's 11-year-old granddaughter she looked like a slut because she was wearing shorts currently in fashion for the young. She habitually cuts in front of people in line at the supermarket, puts 25 items on the 15-item service line, etc.

A new neighbor thought she should be treated with a little kindness. She had her opportunity recently when we were out to breakfast at a restaurant. The harridan sat alone (her husband refuses to be seen in public with her), and my friend commented to her on the beautiful day. Her response? "Don't waste my time with meaningless inanities!" She then proceeded to abuse the server by repeatedly sending her plate back, each time becoming more unpleasant. The girl ended up in tears.

At that point, my friend walked over and said quietly, "I hope you don't think your advanced age justifies your meanness." The witch accused my friend of "slandering" her and left vowing never to return. This elicited a round of applause from the customers and staff.

Why do some people go through life behaving so outrageously? How can she derive satisfaction from being so hateful?

PUZZLED IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR PUZZLED: Ruling out the idea that the person you have described may be mentally disturbed, it's possible she may be so unhappy in her personal life that she's trying to make herself feel better by abusing others. She's a sad case. I'd like to think that when the other diners applauded, it was directed in support of your friend rather than at the disagreeable woman as she left the restaurant.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 34-year-old man, I have been divorced for a couple of years and have no children. I have been dating an incredible woman, "Nikki," who is a bit older than I am. She has three children.

The elephant in the room has always been whether or not Nikki would want more children. We finally discussed it, and she confirmed that she does not. She said she's looking forward to the next phase of her life as her kids get older, which I understand. That conversation has led to a break in our relationship. We haven't spoken for the past two weeks, and it seems like two years.

I am struggling with what to do. I have always wanted to be a dad. Would being a stepdad be as fulfilling for me? Is being in a good relationship more important? Having kids doesn't automatically make things great, right? Could I find someone as wonderful as Nikki, but who wants to have a kid?

Abby, I'm conflicted, and you're the only one I could think of for advice.

JUMBLED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR JUMBLED: Only you can decide whether being a stepfather to Nikki's children would be enough for you. For some men, it would be. For others, it wouldn't be enough. Of course, the primary relationship must be between the husband and wife. Children grow up, leave and establish lives of their own. And you're right, having kids doesn't "automatically" make things great if there is trouble in the relationship.

While there are no guarantees you will find someone as wonderful as Nikki, the odds are very good that you will meet a woman—or more than one—whose goals are similar to yours and who would love to have a family with you. But it won't happen until you firmly decide exactly what you want.

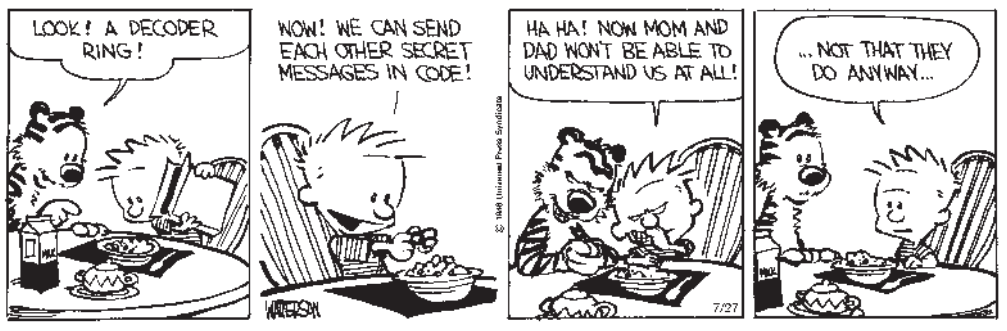
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

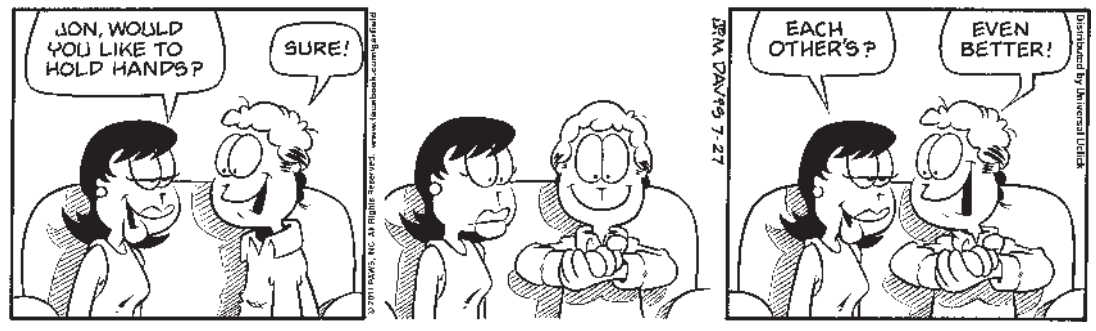
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK! A DECODER RING!
WOW! WE CAN SEND EACH OTHER SECRET MESSAGES IN CODE!
HA HA! NOW MOM AND DAD WON'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND US AT ALL!
...NOT THAT THEY DO ANYWAY...
7/27

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



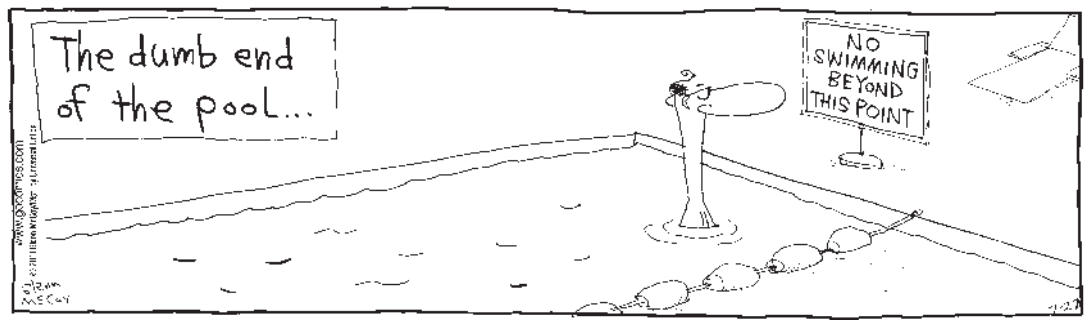
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SERGEANT BILL, I'VE GOT A SITUATION HERE.
OUR WEATHER GRUNT SAYS A STORM'S COMING.
WE'LL NEED TO CANCEL THE ATTACK ON THE WORM LAIR.
IF I COULD MOVE MY FACIAL MUSCLES, I'D BE FROWNING RIGHT NOW.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

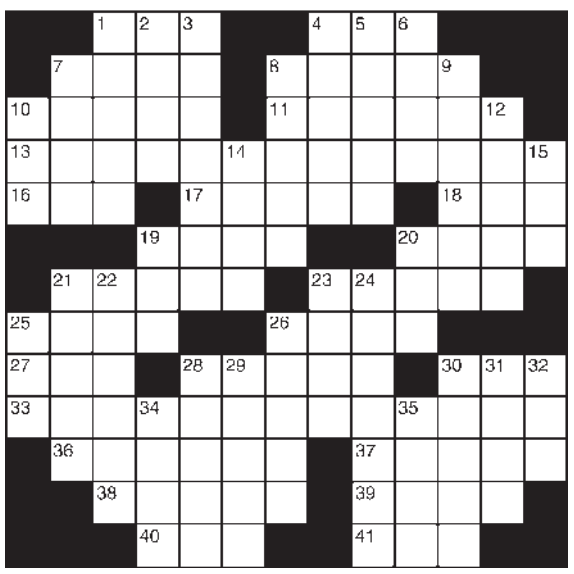
ACROSS
1 "Weird Al" Yankovic song composed solely of palindromes
4 Airport org.
7 Comical Carvey
8 Finnish bath
10 Nip
11 Root vegetable
13 Glimpse
16 Franken and Gore
17 Necessities
18 Victory
19 Long cut
20 Carry on
21 Explosion
23 Baby kangaroos
25 Fedora feature
26 Praise to the skies
27 Really long time
28 Adjust
30 Tikkanen of hockey
33 Horripilated
36 "Heavens!"
37 Crook's pseudonym
38 Near-quart
39 Welshman or Scot
40 Slight amount
41 Crucial

DOWN
1 Model Tyra
2 Formerly
3 Nassau's island group
4 Challenge mockingly
5 Irrational numbers
6 Heche or Hathaway
7 Rotary phone part
8 Hide
9 Pilot's route
10 Sch. group
12 Aspirin targets
14 Sudden rush of wind
15 Potent stick
19 Group of whales
20 Scarlet
21 Meditate gloomily
22 Window frame part
23 Scoff
24 Rural area of Australia
25 Plead
26 Surgery tool
28 Heart line?
29 Having a cupola
30 Poet Dickinson
31 Lovers' quarrel
32 Fool
34 Walking pace
35 Beekeeper played by Peter Fonda

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	W	I	M	■	C	P	A	■	R	E	A	P		
N	A	S	A	■	Y	A	P	■	E	S	S	E		
I	D	L	Y	■	C	R	C	A	M	P	I	C		
P	I	E	H	O	L	E	■	R	O	Y	A	L		
■	■	■	E	V	E	■	F	A	T	■	■	■		
L	L	A	M	A	■	H	O	L	E	O	U	T		
E	O	N	■	■	P	A	X	■	■	B	R	A		
O	U	T	W	E	S	T	■	P	A	I	N	T		
■	■	■	I	V	Y	■	H	A	N	■	■	■		
L	E	O	N	E	■	W	E	S	T	E	G	G		
E	G	G	C	R	E	A	M	■	L	I	A	R		
G	A	L	E	■	A	G	A	■	E	R	G	O		
O	D	E	S	■	T	E	N	■	R	E	E	K		

Yesterday's answer 7-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, 34; Maya Rudolph, 39; Julian McMahon, 43; Cliff Curtis, 43.

Happy Birthday: Get involved in groups that have the same beliefs or goals that you have and you will make allies, as well as bring about beneficial change. Embrace change and you will learn something new about the people around you and show others that you are flexible. Advancement awaits; all you have to do is the work. Your numbers are 5, 12,18, 21, 30, 33, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let anyone push you into making a wrong move. Impulsive action may bring temporary relief, but in the end you will probably have to backtrack. Focus more on what you can accomplish by going directly to the source. Make your moves based on facts and figures. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): The past can be your ticket to the future. Rely on whom you know and the experience you have to guide you to a better position at work and at home. Don't overreact or underestimate. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take initiative and decide what you want. Your versatility has led you in many directions in the past, but now you must be more precise in executing your plans. Think about what you enjoy doing most and incorporate it into your plans. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put greater effort into your creative ideas. A hobby or a skill will turn into a viable source of income. Don't hem and haw over trivial decisions when it's important that you show everyone how capable you are of making a good decision. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Rely on your bravado as well as your intuition and you will make some excellent choices. Helping others will pay off and introduce you to people who can contribute to your advancement. Work on the premise that less is more. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Proceed with caution. Not everyone who is being nice to you is on your side. Showing emotion will be a sign of weakness, making you vulnerable to underhandedness. Learn from your experiences so you are better prepared to handle whatever comes your way. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Plenty of options will crop up if you interact with people from different walks of life. Getting involved in groups that are working toward the same goals you are will help you move forward quicker. Collect an old debt. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's important to use what you have instead of hoarding. Keep everything moving, and you will find that opportunities will open up. Use your vision and you will have a clear-cut idea what you can turn into an asset and what you should discard. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Follow your heart, act on impulse and, whatever you do, don't let a good deal or opportunity get away. Make whatever changes are necessary based on what you see, hear and experience. You're in the driver's seat. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't lose sight of your goals. Keep your financial matters a secret, and handle documents with discretion. A contract you've been working on will take a little extra care. Don't let emotions get in your way. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You are making headway. Your insightfulness can be put to good use, especially when dealing with people who can help you. Partnerships look good, and changes that affect your personal life will turn out well. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A problem at home will take your undivided attention. A practical approach to whatever needs doing will help you stay within budget and impress onlookers. Keeping up with the times will make what you have to offer more appealing. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, inventive, persistent, curious and generous.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	5				9	4	
1			6		3			7
8			5		9			3
5			9		8			2
	1	8	3			6	7	5
			7					9
			8					4
4			1		2			8
	8	3				5	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	5	9	4	1	2	7	3
2	1	7	6	5	3	8	4	9
3	4	9	8	7	2	1	5	6
9	5	6	3	8	7	4	1	2
4	2	8	5	1	6	3	9	7
1	7	3	4	2	9	6	8	5
7	9	1	2	6	8	5	3	4
6	3	4	1	9	5	7	2	8
5	8	2	7	3	4	9	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NATURAL STIMULANTS Solution: 9 letters

C	A	N	I	M	A	T	S	E	I	R	R	E	B	D
I	O	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	D	C	A	L	M	R
R	T	N	S	T	U	D	Y	M	O	O	D	G	U	U
E	O	E	C	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	M	U	G
N	B	B	L	E	N	D	F	A	E	L	O	T	T	S
E	A	R	R	M	N	E	S	A	L	U	M	R	O	F
G	C	A	E	E	E	T	K	O	L	A	P	L	S	R
N	C	S	T	C	N	N	R	N	L	E	O	A	N	E
I	O	T	E	N	T	I	T	A	I	D	U	R	O	T
M	C	C	L	A	A	E	B	A	T	R	N	U	I	N
M	O	U	H	H	D	W	I	M	L	I	D	T	T	U
I	A	D	T	N	F	O	O	D	I	T	O	A	C	O
L	M	O	A	E	L	A	B	R	E	H	E	N	N	C
S	T	R	O	P	S	A	E	T	K	F	O	C	U	S
N	B	Ⓟ	Ⓘ	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	Ⓢ	E	N	E	R	G	Y	F	T

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Athlete, Berries, Blend, Brand, Calm, Care, Cocoa, Coffee, Compound, Concentration, Confidence, Counter, Diet, Doctor, Drink, Drugs, Energy, Enhancement, Focus, Food, Formulas, Functions, Generic, Healthy, Herbal, Kola, Leaf, Mental, Mood, Natural, Pills, Products, Rum, Slimming, Sold, Sports, Stamina, Study, Sugar, Teas, Tobacco, Work, Yohimbine

Yesterday's Answer: Flavorful

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Accord by NFL players, owners ends 18-week lockout

WASHINGTON (AP)—After months of public nastiness and private negotiations, of court filings and rulings, of players and owners squabbling over more than $9 billion a year, NFL fans finally saw the handshake and heard the words they awaited: "Football's back."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith both used that phrase while standing shoulder-to-shoulder Monday, announcing their agreement on a 10-year deal to end the lockout that began in March.

Then came what may truly be the lasting image of the dispute's resolution: Indianapolis Colts offensive lineman Jeff Saturday wrapped one of his burly arms around New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and enveloped him in a hug—a gesture that symbolized the acrimony's end more than any statement could.

"I'd like, on behalf of both sides, to apologize to the fans: For the last five, six months we've been talking about the business of football—and not what goes on, on the field, and building the teams in each market," Kraft said. "But the end result is we've been able to have an agreement that I think is going to allow this sport to flourish over the next decade."

Owners can point to victories, such as gaining a higher percentage of all revenue, one of the central issues - they get 53 percent, players 47 percent; the old deal was closer to 50-50. There's also a new system that will rein in spending on contracts for first-round draft picks.

Players, meanwhile, persuaded teams to commit to spending nearly all of their salary cap space in cash and won changes to offseason and in-season practice rules that should make the game safer.

One important compromise came on expanding the regular season from 16 to 18 games, which owners favored. That can be revisited for the 2013 season, but players must approve any change.

"Both parties were trying to stand their ground—and rightfully so," said Vikings linebacker Ben Leber, one of the 10 named plaintiffs in the players' antitrust suit against the league that will now be dropped. "In the end, against all the negativity that was out there publicly, they took their time and hammered out what I think is going to turn out to be one of the best deals in the history of sports.

An interesting choice of phrase, given that Smith and some players grew fond of calling the owners' last offer before talks fell apart in March "probably the worst deal in sports history."

Here was Smith's take Monday: "We didn't get everything that either side wanted ... but we did arrive at a deal that we think is fair and balanced."

Now comes frenzied football activity, starting immediately. Club facilities will open to players Tuesday, when 2011 draft picks and rookie free agents can be signed, and teams can begin talking to veteran free agents. Training camps for some teams may begin as soon as Wednesday.

"Chaos," said Jets fullback Tony Richardson, a member of the NFLPA's executive committee. "That's the best word for it."

Only one exhibition game was lost: the Hall of Fame opener between the Bears and Rams, scheduled for Aug. 7 in Canton, Ohio.

Otherwise, the entire preseason and regular-season schedules remain intact.

"Our players can't be more excited about going back to doing the thing they love the most," NFLPA president Kevin Mawae said. "We always said during this process we would do a deal when it's right and when it's the right deal. Our players did that. We stuck it out to the end."

When Saturday spoke to reporters, he offered an eloquent tribute to Kraft, lauding him as "a man who helped us save football," and to Kraft's wife, Myra, who died Wednesday from cancer.

"A special thanks to Myra Kraft, who even in her weakest moment allowed Mr. Kraft to come and fight this out," Saturday said. "Without him, this deal does not get done."

Kraft, meanwhile, took a verbal jab at the nearby White House and Congress, saying: "I hope we gave a little lesson to the people in Washington, because the debt crisis is a lot easier to fix than this deal was."

Owners overwhelmingly approved a proposal to end the dispute Thursday, but some unresolved issues needed to be reviewed to satisfy players. The sides worked through the weekend and wrapped up nearly every detail by about 3 a.m. Monday on a final pact that runs through the 2020 season and can't be terminated before then.

That's significant because the old collective bargaining agreement contained an opt-out clause, and owners exercised it in 2008. That led to the contract expiring when talks broke down March 11; hours later, owners locked out the players, creating the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987—and longest in league history.

"I know it has been a very long process since the day we stood here that night in March," Smith said in a brief appearance about 20 minutes before being joined by Goodell and three owners. "But our guys stood together when nobody thought we would. And football is back because of it."

As he spoke, Smith was surrounded by some players, including Saints quarterback Drew Brees, one of 10 plaintiffs in the antitrust lawsuit that players filed against the league March 11. Two unanimous NFLPA leadership votes cleared the way for that case to be dropped and the lockout to go away: first, to recommend to the plaintiffs that they accept the settlement; second, to recommend that all 1,900 players re-establish the union.

All players now will take a vote to re-certify the union—it was dissolved March 11, turning the NFLPA into a trade association—and then one more vote to approve the final CBA. It all needs to be wrapped up by Aug. 4 to make everything official, something everyone involved believes will happen without a hitch.

Only once it is back to being a union can the NFLPA finish the contract, covering remaining items such as player discipline, drug testing, disability programs and pensions.

Several people involved in the negotiations praised Goodell and Smith for working with each other to try get the sides to arrive at a deal.

"If we don't have a good relationship, it hurts the game and the business of football," Smith said. "I'm not sure any two people have ever come together in a more compressed, public, interesting time than Roger and I."

Now get set for a wild week.

On Tuesday, clubs can begin talking to veteran free agents, who can sign as soon as Friday. On Wednesday, training camps will start to open.

The major economic framework for the deal was worked out more than a week ago.

That included dividing revenue; a per-club cap of about $120 million for salary and bonuses in 2011—and at least that in 2012 and 2013—plus about $22 million for benefits; a salary system to rein in spending on first-round draft picks; and unrestricted free agency for most players after four seasons.

"If I don't have to hear the word 'lockout' for a long time, I'll be happy about that," Arizona Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald said. "I know guys are ready to get back to work."

AP

NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, left, and NFL football Commissioner Roger Goodell speak during a news conference at the NFL Players Association office in Washington, Monday, July 25, 2011, after the NFL Players Association executive board and 32 team representatives voted unanimously Monday to approve the terms of a deal with owners to end the four-month lockout.

Phelps goes for 1st individual gold at Worlds

SHANGHAI (AP)—Michael Phelps is going after Paul Biedermann, and this time he's got help.

Having been handed "a pretty good beatdown" by the German in the 200-meter freestyle two years ago in Rome, Phelps gets a long-awaited chance at revenge in the world championships.

Biedermann trounced Phelps and took away his world record in Rome, where everyone was wearing the high-tech bodysuits that are now banned.

This time, it should be a fair fight.

Phelps and Biedermann won't be going one-on-one, though. They'll be joined by what Phelps described as "a studly field" in Tuesday night's final at the Oriental Sports Center.

Yannick Agnel of France was the fastest qualifier in the semifinals, with Biedermann second, American Ryan Lochte third, Park Tae-hwan of South Korea fourth and Phelps fifth.

"It's going to be down to the last 50 (meters)," Phelps said. "There are some guys that have front-half speed and some guys that close extremely well. You can probably guarantee that it's going to be a tight group."

Lochte didn't swim the 200 free in Rome, but he figures to be a major presence this time.

"It's going to be definitely a dogfight," he said, noting that he and Phelps will swim next to each other.

"I'm going to kind of move over to the lane line and draft off him. Hopefully we can put something together and pull out a 1-2 race."

Biedermann predicted the final will be "big pressure."

The Americans earned their first gold medal on Monday, with Dana Vollmer winning the 100 butterfly in 56.87 seconds.

No world records have been set in the first two days of the meet, with everyone wearing textile suits.

Emotions ran high for Brazil's Cesar Cielo and Alexander Dale Oen of Norway, but for opposite reasons.

Cielo won the 50 butterfly days after being cleared of a doping offense by the Court of Arbitration for Sport during an emergency hearing in Shanghai.

He let out a yell after touching in 23.10, then took off his goggles and cap and began sobbing while hanging on the lane rope for several seconds.

"Very happy, very relieved," Cielo said.

He cried again during the awards ceremony, and the Chinese fans responded with loud applause.

"I'm an emotional man. My life and career are of great passions," Cielo said. "The gold means a lot to me, and it's very hard to get it."

Dale Oen led from start to finish to take gold in the 100 breaststroke, then pointed to the Norwegian flag on his cap in honor of the people killed during the twin attacks in his country.

"In a time like this for Norway, we need to be together, to be one," he said. "I hope my results here can bring back some confidences and I will go back to help them after the championships."

In the 50 fly, Aussie Matthew Targett took the silver in 23.28 and his 32-year-old teammate Geoff Huegill earned the bronze in 23.35.

Cielo and three teammates tested positive for furosemide, a banned diuretic, at a meet in Rio de Janeiro in May. After the Brazilian swimming federation gave Cielo a warning, swimming governing body FINA appealed the decision to the CAS, which upheld the Brazilian ruling.

Cielo said he consumed the drug in a contaminated batch of a food supplement he regularly uses.

"I'm so glad that I can be here to swim," he said. "The gold medal encourages me to train harder and go higher in the future."

The ruling prompted an outcry from other swimmers, who called it unfair, and there were some whistles in the crowd after his victory.

"It's difficult for him," Targett said. "I'm not going to speak for my friend, but I lived with the guy and I know exactly what he's going through. At times like this, you find out who your real friends are."

Targett called Kenya's Jason Dunford, who finished seventh, a "sore loser" for allegedly putting his thumbs down after the race.

Dale Oen was timed in 58.71 for his victory. Fabio Scozzoli of Italy took the silver and Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa won the bronze. Olympic champion Kosuke Kitajima of Japan finished fourth.

Host China claimed its first gold when 15-year-old Ye Shiwen rallied from fifth to first during the freestyle leg in the women's 200 individual medley. She won in 2:08.90.

Australia's Alicia Coutts was second in 2:09.00, and defending champion Ariana Kukors of the United States took the bronze in 2:09.12.

Yankees extend Mariners skid to 16

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Jeter and Mark Teixeira each homered and drove in three runs, Freddy Garcia stifled his former team and the New York Yankees handed the snakebit Seattle Mariners their 16th straight loss with a 10-3 victory Monday night.

A rain delay of 1 hour, 57 minutes was the only thing that slowed this loss for Seattle. The game was barely under way when Teixeira crushed any pregame hopes Seattle had of jumping out early and snapping the streak, hitting a rare homer into the second deck in left field after Curtis Granderson walked in the first. In the third, Jeter hit his first homer since connecting for hit No. 3,000 on July 9. He also tripled in the eighth.

Five Yankees had RBIs in the fourth against Jason Vargas (6-9), an inning in which the Mariners made two errors and were on the wrong side of what appeared to be a missed call at first base—one of two calls to go against Seattle.

After scoring 29 runs in the past six games and still breaking the franchise's 1992 record of 14 losses in a row, the Mariners went down meekly against Garcia (9-7). With only the occasional player standing at the railing at the top step of the Seattle dugout until the game was well out of hand in the eighth, the Mariners mustered just three hits through the first six innings.

Garcia got his start with Seattle in 1999, was a two-time All-Star and went to the AL championship series twice in his 5 1/2 seasons in the Pacific Northwest. He hasn't been an All-Star since but has been a steady addition to the Yankees' rotation this season.

He gave up eight hits and three runs in a season-high 7 2-3 innings, helping New York improve to 3-1 in a 13-game stretch against teams currently below .500.

The Mariners were at .500 on July 5, 2 1/2 games back in the AL West and an early season surprise. But everything has fallen apart since. Their skid is the longest in the majors since Kansas City lost 19 in a row in 2005.

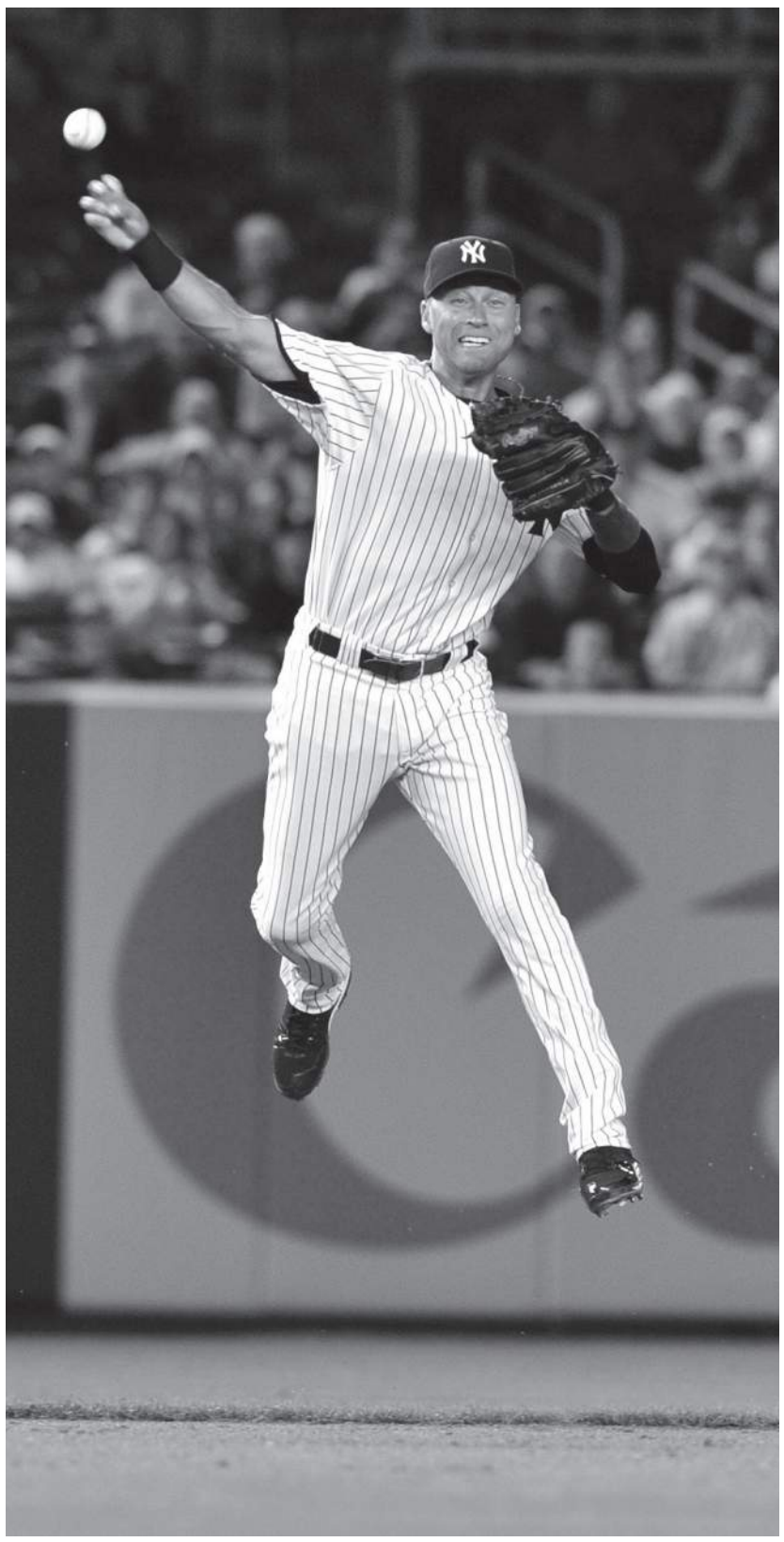
"They're staying together with this thing, it's just a hell of a thing we're going through right now," manager Eric Wedge said. "We just got to keep showing up and doing different things and trying different things to try and get back on track."

Ichiro Suzuki cut the lead to 2-1 with a sacrifice fly in the third after the first two runners reached. The rally was halted when Franklin Gutierrez was thrown out trying to advance on a ball that bounced in the dirt.

The Yankees put it out of reach in the fourth. After Vargas struck out Nick Swisherto start the inning, Russell Martin reached when third baseman Adam Kennedy couldn't handle his tough grounder down the line. Andruw Jones then was called safe on a toss play to Vargas at first base, but replays appeared to show Vargas won the race to the base.

Eduardo Nunez and Brett Gardner followed with RBI singles. Jeter then hit a grounder to second. Dustin Ackley made a poor throw home for another run.

Granderson had one of his two sacrifice flies and Teixeira made it 8-1 with a single.



AP

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter throws to first for the out on Seattle Mariners' Adam Kennedy during the second inning of a baseball game Monday, July 25, 2011, in New York.

"It's one thing when you know you're kind of all over the place and they get to you, but other than that home run in the first to Teixeira they just battle you and battle you and don;t give up at-bats and don't give in," Vargas said. "I did my best out there to try to limit what was going on but nothing was going right for us."

Vargas gave up eight runs—four earned—and seven hits in four innings.

Justin Smoak had an RBI single in the seventh and Brendan Ryan a run-scoring double in the eighth.

Rangers 20, Twins 6

At Arlington, Ian Kinsler homered and drove in four runs as part of the Texas Rangers' offensive barrage in a 20-6 rout of the Minnesota Twins on Monday night.

Kinsler had four of the Rangers' league-best 27 hits. Mike Napoli and Nelson Cruz also had four hits as all the Rangers starters had at least two except for third baseman Chris Davis, who was hitless in six at-bats.

Michael Young also went deep and had three RBIs for Texas, which had 18 runs by the end of the fifth inning.

Things were so one-sided that Michael Cuddyer moved from right field to the mound to pitch the eighth for the Twins. Cuddyer gave up a double to Napoli, a bloop single to Mitch Moreland, and walked Kinsler with one out to load the bases.

Indians 3, Angels 2

At Cleveland, Jason Kipnis delivered his first career hit with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth inning to give the Indians a victory over the Angels.

Kipnis hit a 1-0 pitch from Hisanori Takahashi between first and second base to give the Indians their 11th home win in their last at-bat and break a four-game losing streak.

Tony Sipp (5-2) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win after Bobby Abreu's(notes) two-run homer off Vinnie Pestano put the Angels ahead 2-1 in the eighth.

Angels closer Jordan Walden blew his seventh save in 30 tries.

White Sox 6, Tigers 3

At Chicago, Mark Buehrle pitched six innings and Carlos Quentin(notes) hit a bases-loaded double Monday night as the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-3 to pull within 3 1/2 games of first in the AL Central.

Buehrle (8-5) allowed 10 hits and Detroit had a runner on in each of his six innings, but the Tigers managed just two unearned runs off the left-hander.

Detroit rookie Duane Below (0-1) surrendered six hits and four runs in 4 2-3 innings.

Tigers manager Jim Leyland was ejected before the start of the sixth. There was no immediate word on why he was thrown out.

Royals 3, Red Sox 1, 14 innings

At Boston, Eric Hosmer doubled to lead off the 14th inning and scored when Mike Aviles bunted the ball over the head of charging first baseman Adrian Gonzalez to give the Royals a victory over the Red Sox.

Louis Coleman (1-2) went two innings and twice pitching out of jams. Joakim Soria struck out three in the bottom of the 14th to earn his 18th save and send Boston to just its fourth loss in 21 games.

The Red Sox threatened to score five times in the last six innings, but the Royals made their best chance count. Hosmer doubled off Randy Williams (0-1) to start the 14th.

Athletics 7, Rays 5

At Oakland, Conor Jackson hit a two-run double in the seventh inning and the Athletics rallied from three runs down to beat the Rays.

Cliff Pennington homered for the second time in four games and David DeJesus added two hits, including an RBI single to start the A's uprising against Tampa Bay's bullpen.

Ben Zobrist homered and doubled twice for the Rays, who lost for the third time in four games and dropped to 4-7 since the All-Star break.

Brian Fuentes (2-8), the second of five A's pitchers, worked two-thirds of an inning for his first win since April 27. Andrew Bailey gave up two-out double and walk but retired Matt Joyce on a called third strike for his 12th save in 14 tries.

J.P. Howell (2-2) took the loss.

Padres 5, Phillies 4

At Philadelphia, Aaron Harang outpitched Cliff Lee, Chris Denorfia stole home and the San Diego Padres beat the Philadelphia Phillies for the first time in more than a year, 5-4 on Monday.

Harang (9-2) gave up four runs in six innings to help the Padres avoid a four-game sweep and defeat the Phillies for the first time since June 7, 2010. The Phillies had beaten the Padres 10 straight times, their second-longest streak against them since winning 11 from 2004-06.

Lee (9-7) lasted only four innings, his second-shortest outing of the season. He allowed 10 hits, five runs and made a pickoff blunder that allowed Denorfia to steal home. His soft toss to first gave Denorfia the opening he needed to bolt from third and give the Padres a 3-1 lead.

Heath Bell pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

After the Phillies staked Lee to a 1-0 lead, he unraveled in the second. Lee, who had allowed only three runs over 14 innings in his last two starts, gave up four in the inning.

Mets 4, Reds 2

At Cincinnati, Carlos Beltran's sacrifice fly started a four-run rally in the seventh inning and New York prevented Cincinnati from its first three-game win streak of the season.

The Mets rallied against Mike Leake (8-6) and two relievers, stopping the Reds' modest two-game streak. The Reds haven't won three in a row since they swept the Dodgers from June 13-15.

R.A. Dickey (5-8) allowed eight hits and a pair of runs in 6 2-3 innings, David Wright had a run-scoring single and Daniel Murphy and Jason Bay each hit an RBI double for the Mets.

Jason Isringhausen got his third save in six chances.

Cardinals 10, Astros 5

At St. Louis, Catcher Yadier Molina was a triple shy of the cycle for the second time in three games and Kyle McClellanended an eight-game victory drought for St. Louis.

Trailing 8-1, Carlos Lee made it interesting with his 16th career grand slam in the eighth off P.J. Walters, cutting the gap to three runs before St. Louis answered with two.

Colby Rasmus homered for the second straight game and had three RBIs for the Cardinals.

Molina missed his only shot for the cycle when he took a called third strike from Mark Melancon in the eighth. His eighth homer came in the fourth off J.A. Happ(4-12).

McClellan (7-6) allowed one run on six hits and walked none.

Pirates 3, Braves 1

At Atlanta, James McDonald struck out a career-high nine in 5 1-3 scoreless innings and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Atlanta Braves 3-1 on Monday night to keep pace in the tight NL Central race.

The Pirates are tied with St. Louis for first place in the division, a half-game ahead of Milwaukee, which was off.

McDonald (6-4) had the most strikeouts by a Pirates pitcher in almost two years. He gave up eight hits but did not walk a batter and ended each of the first five innings with strikeouts.

McDonald has not allowed a run in two straight wins. Joel Hanrahan pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save in 30 chances.

Dodgers 8, Rockies 5

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a two-run homer to help Rubby De La Rosa win for the first time in six weeks and the Dodgers beat the Rockies.

Aaron Miles and recently acquired Juan Rivera had run-scoring doubles to help De La Rosa (4-4) end a winless stretch of six straight starts since beating the Rockies 10-8 at Coors Field.

The 22-year-old right-hander allowed a run and three hits over six innings, struck out five and walked four. He has giving up seven earned runs in 31 innings during his last five outings, and has an overall ERA of 3.49 in his nine big league starts.

Juan Nicasio (4-3) gave up five run in 5 2-3 innings for the loss.

Jacem Printing marks first win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jacem Printing barged into the win column in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after downing Marianas Water, 85-79, Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Jacem Printing leaned on its youth players to gain its first win in three games. Brandon Aurelio fired six triples and scored 35 points, while Josh Kiyoshi and Lawrence Deleon Guerrero chipped in 16 and 10, respectively.

After taking a 21-14 advantage at the end of the opening quarter, Jacem pulled away in the second period, 42-26, with Aurelio making seven points and Kiyoshi adding four.

Jacem then withstood Marianas Water's repeated comeback bids in the second half to break into the win column in Pool C and hand the latter its third loss in four games.

I-Fashion 66, Bud Brothers 57

In the Pool B match, I-Fashion also notched its first win in two games after beating Bud Brothers, 66-57.

Angelo Fernando top-scored for I-Fashion with 24, including nine in the payoff canto. I-Fashion won the closely fought contest from the foul line, hitting nine free throws in the final period.

R.J. Castro had 33 points for Bud Brothers (1-3) on the losing end.

GPPC 65, Mawati 59

In the lone game in Pool C last Sunday, GPPC slipped past Mawati, 65-59.

GPPC held Mawati to five points in the fourth quarter to improve to a 2-2 mark.

Randy Mungcal and Alex Ocampo teamed up in GPPC's second victory, combining for 45 points. Ocampo had 10 markers in the fourth quarter, while Mungcal chipped in eight, as GPPC outgunned Mawati in the homestretch, 20-5.

SUNDAY

GPPC 65 – Mungcal 25, Ocampo 20, Timbal 5, Tolentino 4, Jalandoni 2, Sampang 3.

Mawati 59 – Reyes 23, Dela Cruz 14, Avila 4, Demapan 4, Enriquez 2, Corotan 2, Rejano 2, Dalusong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 35-39, 45-54, 65-59.

MONDAY
First Game

Jacem Printing 85 – Aurelio 35, Kiyoshi 16, Guerrero 10, Olivos 4, Cadag 2, Mateo 2, Jose 2, Valencia 2.

Marianas Water 79 – Pacheco 25, Lontoc 12, Cabrera 12, Suda 7, J. Darag 7, Andales 4, Conti 2, R. Darag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-14, 42-26, 62-48, 85-79.

Second Game

I-Fashion 66 – Fernando 24, Salazar 12, Mc. Achas 9, Odicta 6, Mi. Achas 5, Herrera 4, Lapuz 4.

Bud Brothers 57 – Castro 33, Banatasa 11, Dayrit 9, Lumaug 5, Pacson 4.

Scoring by quarters: 10-12, 30-29, 48-45, 66-67.

CHENTSOVA

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techa was also on the heat, but failed to show up for the 9am swim time.

American Allison Schmitt had the fastest qualifying time in the seven heats, timing in at 1:56.66 and stunning world and championships record holder Federica Pellegrini of Italy (1:56.87). Both swimmers advanced to the next round along with 12 others.

Chentsova's record swim in the 200m freestyle race came a day after she took a rest and two days after she failed to eclipse her PBT in the 400m freestyle event. The Saipan Swim Club mainstay debuted in Shanghai last Sunday and posted 5:18.67 in the 400m freestyle race, more than two seconds short of her PBT 5:16.62. She came in at fourth on Heat 1.

Then in her second and last race, the Whispering Palms student timed in at 33.68 seconds in the first 50m of the 200m freestyle event and fell behind Franchette (33.13 seconds). The next 50m was a neck-and-neck battle between Chentsova (37.44 seconds) and Franchette (37.46), but the latter still led at the halfway mark of the event, posting 1:10.59 against the former's 1:11.12).

On the third lap of the race, Chentsova managed about a second lead against Franchette, as the CNMI swimmer logged 39.09 seconds against the Seychelles' 40.04 seconds. Then in the final 50m, Chentsova pulled away, clocking in at 37.65 seconds against Franchette's 41.25.

With Chentsova done with her assignments, she will now watch teammates Rezne Wong and Grace Kimball compete in their respective events.

Wong will be seeing action in today's preliminaries for the 200m individual medley.

He is entered on Heat 1 with seven other swimmers and holds a qualifying time of 2:11.81, which is the current CNMI record. The qualifying races will start at 9am (11am on Saipan).

Then tomorrow, Kimball will have her World Championships debut via the 100m freestyle race. She will be on Heat 2 with seven other swimmers and will plunge into the pool at 9am. Wong is also scheduled to race tomorrow and he will be competing in his last event, the 200m breaststroke race.

The CNMI will complete its World Championships stint this Saturday when Kimball swims in the 50m freestyle event.

SUFA fundraising tourney next month

The SUFA Softball Association is holding its third fundraising softball tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield from Aug. 12 to 14.

In addition, the association has changed the date of the raffle drawing to Aug. 14 to line up with its upcoming event.

The tournament will follow a double-elimination format with a modified co-ed rule where at least two female players must be on the field (and in the lineup) at all times.

Prizes are up for grabs but have not yet been determined.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help send Team SUFA to Portland, Oregon for the 2011 Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament.

For more information, contact Joe Flores at 483-7848. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

WILD

From Page 28

with a hand-held infrared-emitting targeting device. In the PIC tournament, two teams with three members apiece dueled in a three-minute play with the team to first capture the flag of the opposing squad and bring it back to home base declared the winner. A player that pulls out the flag of the opposing team, but gets laser tag once is thrown out of the park. A player's infrared-emitting gun is automatically turned off once the opposing player hits it. Players can avoid being laser tag by hiding on various make-shift bunkers scattered at the park.

Seven teams joined the PIC tournament and they played in a round-robin format with Rambo's Commandoes topping the field with a 5-1 record (12 points). The Oleai Shooters came in at second with a 4-2 mark (9 points), followed by Wolf Pack (4-2/8pts.), Wild Dogs (3-3/7 pts.), Team Austin (2-4/5 pts.), G4S Security Service (2-4/4 pts.), and G4S Secret Service (2-4/2 pts).

All seven teams advanced to the double-elimination playoffs with Rambo's Commandoes earning a bye at the start of the round. In the playoffs, format was regular "elimination" style battle where each winner's bracket game was played in five minutes and each team had eight lives and unlimited ammunition. In the loser's bracket, each matches lasted for only three minutes and each squad had five lives and unlimited ammunition.

In the winner's bracket, the Wild Dogs won over Team Austin to set up a quarterfinal match over Rambo's Commandoes. The Wild Dogs stunned Rambo's Commandoes and then defeated the Oleai Shooters in the semis to advance to the finals first.

In the loser's bracket, Rambo's Commandoes and Oleai Shooters faced in a do-or-die game for the right to meet the Wild Dogs in the finals and the former won. The Oleai Shooters, composed of Leo Galarse, R.J. Bobo, and Jimbo Wala settled for third place, duplicating their finish last year.

Meanwhile, tournament organizer Dennis Tababa would like to thank Pacific Trading, Co., Miller Lite, Monster, Boutiki-Saipan, and PIC for supporting the weekend event.

Tababa added that PIC's Laser Tag Park is open to the public on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm. The park is also available for private parties. For more information, contact 237-5173.

OMECHELANG

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Game 1, the most in the field for two days. She drilled 154 and 142 pinfalls in the next two games and then had 184 in the last for an average of 169 pinfalls.

Rounding out the Top 3 were Mel Regis and Carol McKenzie, who totaled 661 and 656 pinfalls in four games, respectively. Regis recorded 160 and 164 in the first two games, logged 159 in the last, and played her best in the third with 178 pinfalls for an average of 165.25. McKenzie carded 172, 154, 154 and 176, for an average of 164 pinfalls.

In the King of the Lanes, Manacop scored more than 200 pinfalls in the first three games (201, 236, and 214) and had 179 last Monday for an average of 207.50. Last Sunday, he tallied 226, 186, 210, and 185 for an average of 201.75 pinfalls per game.

Brothers Raymond and Raphael Zapanta completed the Top 3 with 777 and 743 pinfalls, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes July roll-off, Marion McKenzie clinched his third straight win after besting three other youth keglers.

McKenzie had a four-game total of 638 pinfalls to beat M.J. Aldan (524), younger brother, Marcel (396), and Jasper Manacop (270).

LUKA

From Page 28

earnings. Eighteen of the 48 boats paid $100 dollars apiece to see which hauled the biggest marlin and *Luka and Ben's* 8'11" 420-lb monster bested *Mada Flyers'* 357.5-lb catch.

Mada Flyer's captain Lino Tenorio and crewmen senator Luis Crisostimo and Juko Ishikawa settled for first prize in the billfish category and took home $1,250. *Da Atta Girl* (262.5-lbs) won an even $1,000 for second place and *Bunita* (224-lbs) shared $750 for third. All Top 4 finishers also won portable grills.

My Lady Gora of captain Jess Aldan and anglers Ignacia and Jason Aldan, John Castro, and Jordan Ogo topped the yellow fin class with a 50.70-lb late-hour entrant caught on the final day. The group won $1,000, a cell phone and "Size Matters" tank tops. *Saint Patrick* (38.35-lbs) won $500 and a one-night stay at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino for placing second. There was no third place finisher, as the category set a 15-lb catch minimum.

Marianas ruled a tight wahoo field with a 31.40-lb whopper and won $1,000, a cooler with Bud products, a cell phone, and "Size Matters" tank tops. Jesus Muna captains the team with anglers Pedro DL Guerrero and Nick S. Muna. *CM-452-PU* (29.45-lbs) gained $500 and third placer *Emmanuel* (29.25-lbs) of Guam won $300. Second and third finishers also each received a three-day pass for one at Spaness.

Emmanuel also took home top honors in the mahi category with its 27.30-lb trophy fish. Captain Michael James with anglers Frank James and George Arriola won $1,000, a cooler with Bud products, and a cell phone, while runner-up *Sea Ray* (10.75-lbs) won $500 with a one-night stay for two at Pacific Islands Club. *My Lady Gora* (3.80-lbs) took home $300 and a free Sunday brunch for two at World Resort's Buffet World Restaurant.

*Joker IV (*16.85-lbs) under captain Mario Barit with first mate Annie Legaspi came out on top in the skip jack grouping with their 16.85-lb winner. The duo received $300, a cooler with Bud products, and a Red X-1 first aid kit. *Sea Ray* (16.65-lbs) won $200 for second place and *Magnificat* (15.30-lbs) was issued $100 for third. Each finisher also each received a $100 Yamaha gift card and gift certificates from Hermann's Bakery and Kinpachi Restaurant.

Tweety's two-day 144-lb workload took the total weight honors good for $500, a cooler with Bud products, a three-day pass for one at World Resort Saipan's Spaness, and dinner for two at Stars & Stripes. The trio is made up of captain Gonzalo Pangelinan and anglers JD Tenorio and Joe Selbart.

Major sponsors Delta Airlines provided the plane tickets, Docomo Pacific handed out the Samsung B2710 cellular phones, Budweiser provided the coolers, and the American Red Cross NMI Chapter gave away first aid kits to winners.

Other event sponsors included the Marianas Visitor Authority, Marpac, Micronesian Woodcraft, Mobil, NMC CREES, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Rota Germanium Mineral Water, Saipan Aqua World, Saipan Shipping, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Triple B Forwarders, FAS Moving, Fishing & Tackle Sporting Goods, Joeten Enterprises, Joeten Motors, and YCO Corporation.

Meanwhile, organizers observed a moment of silence during the banquet to honor late SFA members Sam Waki and Jun Flores.

Winners in various categories were left to fight over a handcrafted solid wood trophy carved into the fish species, accordingly, while the grand prize winner was presented with a miniature version of the coveted perpetual trophy. By custom, the grand prize winning team members have their names engraved on the life-size 6-foot trophy.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	62	38	.620	–
New York	60	40	.600	2
Tampa Bay	53	48	.525	9 1/2
Toronto	51	51	.500	12
Baltimore	40	58	.408	21 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	54	48	.529	–
Cleveland	52	48	.520	1
Chicago	50	51	.495	3 1/2
Minnesota	47	55	.461	7
Kansas City	43	59	.422	11

West Division

Texas	59	44	.573	–
Los Angeles	55	48	.534	4
Oakland	45	57	.441	13 1/2
Seattle	43	59	.422	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	64	37	.634	–
Atlanta	59	44	.573	6
New York	51	51	.500	13 1/2
Washington	49	52	.485	15
Florida	49	53	.480	15 1/2

Central Division

Pittsburgh	53	47	.530	–
St. Louis	54	48	.529	–
Milwaukee	54	49	.524	1/2
Cincinnati	50	52	.490	4
Chicago	42	60	.412	12
Houston	33	69	.324	21

West Division

San Francisco	59	43	.578	–
Arizona	55	47	.539	4
Colorado	48	55	.466	11 1/2
Los Angeles	46	56	.451	13
San Diego	45	58	.437	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

NY Yankees 10, Seattle 3
Texas 20, Minnesota 6
Cleveland 3, LA Angels 2
Chicago 6, Detroit 3
Kansas City 3, Boston 1, 14 innings
Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 5
San Diego 5, Philadelphia 4
NY Mets 4, Cincinnati 2
St. Louis 10, Houston 5
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 1
LA Dodgers 8, Colorado 5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament

PHOTOS By KEN IMAYA

Members and officials of the CNMI U15 National Team pose for a group photo after completing their games in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Taipei, Taiwan, last Sunday.

Several members of the CNMI U15 National Team celebrate their victory over Macau last Sunday at the Taipei Municipal Stadium.

CNMI players line up to have their IDs check before their game against DPR Korea.

The CNMI's Enrico Del Rosario kicks the ball during their match over DPR Korea.

CNMI U15 National Team official Carrie Schuler stretches Andrew Johnson's legs during halftime of their game against Korea.

CNMI goalie Ethan Dickinson kicks the ball.

The CNMI's Jake Lee chases the ball during the first half of their game against Hong Kong.

The CNMI's Angelo Jones, left, deflects the shot of a Korean striker.

The CNMI's John Taisacan, left, battles the ball against a Korean striker.

The scoreboard shows the CNMI leading Macau, 2-1.

Accord by NFL players, owners ends 18-week lockout
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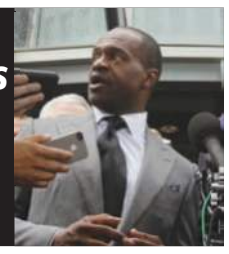

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees extend Mariners skid to 16
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Chentsova sets new PBT at Worlds

DAN KIMBALL
Victoria Chentsova, seen here competing in a local race, broke her personal best time in the 200m freestyle event during the qualifying race in the 14th FINA World Championships yesterday at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmer Victoria Chentsova capped her campaign in the 14th FINA World Championships on a bright note after recording a new personal best time in the 200m freestyle race yesterday at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

The 13-year-old swimmer timed in at two minutes, 27.86 seconds in the 200m freestyle event, surpassing her previous PBT of 2:29.86, which she logged during the 2011 Guam Championships in May. Chentsova's new PBT in the 200m freestyle moved her about seven seconds off the CNMI age group record (2:21.37) Nina Mosley tallied on May 5, 2004.

The Commonwealth bet was on Heat 1 of the preliminary race and topped her group, too, finishing the 200m freestyle event more than four seconds faster than her closest pursuer. Seychelles' Aure Franchette clocked in at 2:31.88 to place second, followed by Turkmenistan's Jennet Saryyeva (2:41.27). Tanzania's Gouri Ko-

See CHENTSOVA on Page 26

Luka and Ben takes grand prize

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Luka and Ben of captain Rick George and crew members Phillip and Mel Adan and Steve Igisiar was awarded the grand prize in the Saipan Fishermen Association 27th Annual International Fishing Tournament Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan pool side.

The major prize package included a round trip ticket to anywhere in the U.S., a cooler and Bud products, a cell-phone, $2,000 in cash, and another $1,900 in side bet

See LUKA on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Luka and Ben crew members celebrate after receiving the grand prize in the Saipan Fishermen Association 27th Annual International Fishing Tournament during the awards banquet held Monday night at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Omechelang, Manacop top July roll-offs

Omechelang

Manacop

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After being winless for three months, Simon Manacop and Gloria Omechelang ended their skid as they prevailed in the 2011 Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes July roll-offs at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Manacop bowled twice in the July tournament and his last Monday's score of 830 pinfalls surpassed his last Sunday's 830 pinfalls, allowing him to beat 16 other keglers for the monthly title.

Omechelang joined only last Sunday's roll-off and her 676 pinfalls were unbeaten in the second day of the tournament, handing the veteran bowler the July tiara. Both Manacop and Omechelang topped the March roll-offs before sliding in the next three monthly tournaments.

Omechelang started her bid for the July crown on a positive note, knocking down 196 pins in

See OMECHELANG on Page 26

Wild Dogs rule Laser Tag tourney again

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Wild Dogs were crowned champions again in the Pacific Islands Club Laser Tag Tournament after winning last Saturday's competition at the PIC Laser Tag Park in San Antonio.

The Wild Dogs, who defeated Head Shots in the finals of the inaugural event last year, had Jesse Peredo, Derek Gersonde, and Matt Iguel on the team and topped the 2011 edition of the annual tournament after beating Rambo's Commandoes in the championship match. Eric Johnson led Rambo's Commandoes and other members included his son, Will, and daughter, Lyndin.

Wikipedia defines laser tag as a recreational activity where players attempt to score points by tagging targets, typically

See WILD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Wild Dogs' Derek Gersonde hides in a make-shift bunker during their final match against Rambo's Commandoes in last Saturday's Pacific Islands Club Laser Tag Tournament at the PIC Laser Tag Park.